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Conflict in Tajikistan Continues; Interior Minister Resigns

Following the storming of the Tajik presidential palace, Moscow ITAR-TASS reports that in response to reports that Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev is "allegedly staying on the territory of one of the units of the Dushanbe garrison," General Mukhriddin Ashurov, commander of the CIS motorized infantry division deployed in Tajikistan, stated: "This is a most shameless lie, circulated by certain forces with the aim to play the army card, to whip up anti-army and anti-Russian feelings. I am stating officially that the Russian army is maintaining strict neutrality and is not interfering in the internal political conflict in the sovereign republic." In a statement circulated by the president's office at the Tajik permanent mission in Moscow, it was noted that "Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev is now staying in the Republic's capital, taking every possible measure to release the hostages and to normalize the situation."

"It has become known from sources close to government quarters that republican Interior Minister Makhmadayez Navdzhuvanov has tendered his resignation on the grounds that he can no longer participate in the internecine fratricidal war and sees no way out of the current situation."

ITAR-TASS also reports that a spokesman for the Communications Ministry stated that "the broadcasting of Russian and Uzbek television programmes and Channel One radio programme, Rossiya and Mayak radio programmes has been suspended throughout Tajikistan" since 1 September, on instructions from the Tajik television network chairman.

Russia To Send Two Warships to Persian Gulf

ITAR-TASS reports that the Russian Chief of Staff Viktor Dubynin said that Russia will send two warships to the Persian Gulf to join the international peacekeeping mission in the Gulf initiated by the UN Security Council resolution on Iraq. The warships "are expected to leave for the Gulf in the first ten days of September."

Russian Defense Conversion Accord Signed With South Korea

During his visit to South Korea, Russian Industry Minister Titkin and his ROK counterpart, Han Pong-su, signed a "memorandum of mutual understanding" that will expand "cooperation between the Russian Federation's Industry Ministry and Korea's Trade and Industry Ministry," according to ITAR-TASS, including the exchange of information in the conversion of the Russian defense industry. According to the document, "the sides will seek to broaden bilateral ties in machine building, electronics, the chemical industry, metallurgy, shipbuilding, and the aerospace field."

Russian Troops Reportedly Involved in Abkhaz Fighting

Commenting on the "fierce fighting" taking place in Eshera near the Georgian capital of Sukhumi, Moscow Radio carries an IPRINDA report stating "subunits of the Russian troops stationed in Eshera also are taking part in combat operations." INTERFAX reports Shevardnadze appeared before the Georgian State Council on 1 September to comment on an "alleged firing" by Russian troops at Georgians stationed near Sukhumi. If the incident, states Shevardnadze, "is confirmed as fact, then the Russian-Georgian-Abkhazian high-level negotiations planned for September 3 in Moscow will not take place." INTERFAX reports Russian President Yeltsin "categorically dismissed reports that Russian armed forces participated in shelling Georgian units in Abkhazia" and "did not consider that his meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze was in jeopardy."

Meanwhile, ITAR-TASS reports eight Russian Air Force Su-25 attack aircraft were transferred 1 September to a military base near Krasnodar. "The redeployment of the aircraft," according to the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, "is a precautionary measure aimed at ensuring the safety of Russian troops deployed in the Caucasus."

Defense Ministers To Hold Conference 3 Sep

OW0109142292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At 10:00 Thursday [3 September], the CIS defence ministers will hold a conference in Moscow. The CIS Joint Armed Forces' press service informed IF [INTERFAX] that there are 16 items on the agenda. The ministers will discuss proposals on the CIS Armed Forces' chief command, various aspects of collective security and nuclear strategy, and also the strategic forces and the procedure of running them. All of these questions will be included in the "military package" which the CIS heads of state and government will discuss in Bishkek on September 25.

The defence ministers will also exchange views on establishing communication between the CIS Armed Forces' chief command and control bodies, on the procedure of mutual transfer of servicemen to their native countries, on ways of perfecting the activity of the CIS's Council of Defence Ministers and on the rules governing the flights of military planes.

Baltic Military Meeting Issues Previewed

LD3108175792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Interview with General Valdas Tutkus, chief of the General Staff of the Lithuanian Ministry of Defense, by unidentified reporter, on occasion of convening of conference of representatives of Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian general staffs, in Vilnius on 31 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr. Tutkus, today's meeting is of great importance. What is this meeting about and who is taking part in it?

[Tutkus] Today's conference is a meeting of chiefs and officers of the general staffs of the armed forces of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. We have also invited a group of experts from NATO [word indistinct]. The Estonian side is represented by Colonel Laaneots, chief of the General Staff; the Latvian side by Colonel Lilientals, chief of the General Staff; and the Lithuanian side by myself. NATO is represented by General Genschel.

[Reporter] What is the main objective of this conference?

[Tutkus] The main objective of this conference is to find more points of contact, first of all in the military circles among the three Baltic states; and also, as the final result of the conference, a specific plan is to be worked out for exchanges of groups of experts for joint work with Latvians and Estonians. The meeting will also probably set up a schedule for the arrival of NATO expert groups in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

[Reporter] There is no doubt that discussions will be held on the withdrawal of the troops of the former Soviet Union. I do not doubt that.

[Tutkus] Of course we will touch upon the issue of the withdrawal. However, this is not one of the issues in today's seminar. Well, of course, this issue will be touched upon, we will discuss the timetable presented by the Russian side. However, this will not be done at the seminar itself, because each party has been allotted half a day for a separate meeting with the representatives of NATO.

[Reporter] And now, some words about the combat effectiveness of our Lithuanian troops. What is is your opinion on this?

[Tutkus] Well, on 31 August we visited the Gelezinis Vilkas [Iron Wolf] Rapid Deployment Brigade, we demonstrated them in action to the NATO experts and according to them.... Well, of course there are some mistakes in training and the preparations. However, in principle I think that bearing in mind that our armed forces have only recently been set up and that it is still very young, they are of a sufficiently high level.

[Reporter] [passage omitted] What is your main concern at this stage?

[Tutkus] For example, I am personally concerned about the preparation of the officer corps, the preparation of the sergeants, because in practical terms, the armed forces we will have mainly depends on the sergeants. [passage omitted] Therefore, we will raise this issue separately at the seminar during the time allotted to Lithuania. We will invite several expert groups from NATO as well as lecturers who can help us in training officers and sergeants.

[Reporter] This problem will not exist any more in two years time because tomorrow the military school will start its work.

[Tutkus] [passage omitted] Staff members of the school are competent enough, they are people with significant experience in the military service, they have wide professional knowledge, they are graduates of the Military Academy. During my talks with the NATO representatives, we have agreed that officers from the West might be invited to lecture on certain topics. This has already been agreed in principle.

[Reporter] In conclusion I should like to remind listeners that people of various nationalities are doing military service in your military units.

[Tutkus] That's right. People of various nationalities are doing military service in our armed forces, including officers of all nationalities. We do not raise the question of nationality in our armed forces. We raise the question of citizenship as in any normal armed forces. The citizens of Lithuania are doing military service in the armed forces.

Fate of Sevastopol Naval Schools Assessed

LD0109162992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—The Russian and Ukrainian presidents should solve the fate of two CIS naval schools in Sevastopol which Ukraine merged into its own one, the UKRINFORM news agency reported referring to an agreement reached at Monday [1 September] talks between Black Sea Fleet Commander Igor Kasatonov, Russian Parliamentarian Sergey Shakhray and Deputy Head of the Education Department of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry Valentin Pilipchuk.

A compromise was reached at the talks, UKRINFORM said, but did not specify whether the merger was cancelled.

The disagreement appeared after the Ukrainian Government decided to merge two Sevastopol-based CIS navy higher schools into the Navy Institute of Ukraine. The head of one of the schools was dismissed.

Both schools, the Nakhimov Black Sea Higher Naval Institute and the Sevastopol Higher Naval Engineers Institute, belonged to the CIS strategic forces, according to the interstate CIS agreement on strategic forces of December 3, 1991. The Russian-Ukrainian agreement on the Black Sea Fleet signed in Yalta on August 3, 1992 did not change the status of the schools.

The schools train officers for all Commonwealth states. 10 disciplines necessary for strategic forces are studied only there.

Rear Admiral Vladimir Denisenko was dismissed as head of the Nakhimov School by the Ukrainian defence minister. Valentin Savchenko, captain first rank, replaced him.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Sep

LD0209052992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0442 GMT 2 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 2 ITAR-TASS—Newspapers highlight today the situation in the hotbeds of tension. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports that hostilities in Abkhazia (the autonomous republic integrated in Georgia) were resumed with even greater force. Representatives of the Russian Defence Ministry maintain that Russian military facilities in Abkhazia are being fired at by Georgian units for provocative purposes. Russia cannot remain indifferent, when provocative actions are being taken against her Army, the newspaper writes. According to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, Georgia announced mobilisation to the Mkhedrioni paramilitary detachments on September 1.

PRAVDA carries statistics of casualties during the armed confrontation in Abkhazia: 130 people were killed and 510 wounded. The newspaper stresses that there will be no winners in this fratricidal war.

The socio-political situation in Tajikistan dramatically deteriorated again, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. Opposition forces blocked the presidential palace and put forward a number of ultimatum-like demands. The most important of them is to stop violence in the Kurgan-Tyubinsky and Kulyabsky regions, perpetrated by armed supporters of the president. According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, President Nabiyev left his residence and is now staying on the territory of the Russian military garrison, deployed in Dushanbe.

Despite the ceasefire agreement reached at the meeting of Armenian and Azeri foreign ministers in Alma-Ata, hostilities are going on along the whole of the Armenian-Azeri border and in Nagorno-Karabakh. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes in this connection: "Thus, the forecast has come true that while there is no mechanism of ceasefire control, no truce will be established in the region." The newspaper reports the talks in the Kremlin between the Russian and Moldovan presidents on the status of the Dniester region. The first stage of the peace-making process is over, and the second one is beginning. According to Yeltsin's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president agreed to be a mediator on the initial stage of political talks on the status of the Dniester region.

PRAVDA carries an article entitled "Knight in Fox's Skin" which deals with Eduard Shevardnadze as a politician. The article is strongly critical. It accuses the Georgian leader of having unleashed a war in the Transcaucasian region. "Shevardnadze, a democrat, is fighting for power by the path of bloodshed, encouraging looting and thuggery. This first happened in South Ossetia and now in Abkhazia."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, in which he spoke about the future of the Russian Armed Forces. Changes in the Army and Navy are necessary and irreversible, he said. Structural changes in the Russian Armed Forces are intended for ensuring their reduction and reforming, without affecting the balance of forces, the level of combat preparedness or the existing control system. According to Grachev, the main changes will take place in the system of training and retraining of personnel.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an exclusive interview with Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhazian parliament, in which he refuted allegations of the Georgian mass media that he is trying to create an Abkhazian-Mingrelian state in cooperation with ex-President Gamsakhurdia. According to Ardzinba, the Abkhazian people are now fighting for freedom not against the Georgian people, but against the Georgian leadership which is pursuing a militaristic policy by having sent troops to Abkhazia.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article dealing with the future of the nuclear industry of the CIS member states. According to the newspaper, "Economic and political contradictions in the Commonwealth of Independent States call in question the future of the nuclear science and industry."

Kozyrev, Japan's Watanabe View Islands, Yeltsin

OW0109132292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 1 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev voiced hope Tuesday [1 September] that the focus can be more on economic cooperation with Japan than a bilateral territorial row during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan in mid-September.

Touching on the need to grope for a compromise on the territorial dispute, Kozyrev reportedly said, "Something more fundamental is needed to turn the Japan-Russian relation into a good neighborly one. In this sense, economic cooperation and other cooperation issues must take precedence."

Kozyrev made the pitch for economic cooperation between Japan and Russia when meeting visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Watanabe arrived in Moscow on Saturday for a week-long stay, during which the agenda for Yeltsin's September 13-16 visit is to be set.

During the meeting with Kozyrev, the Japanese foreign minister reportedly renewed a call for the return of four Russian-occupied islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

"Reaffirming the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration would only take us back to 36 years ago," Watanabe said.

The joint declaration stipulated that Moscow would return two of the four islands—Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets—after the conclusion of a peace treaty with Tokyo. The Kremlin later abrogated the agreement when Japan renewed its security arrangement with the United States.

The former Soviet Union seized and occupied the islands of Shikotan, the Habomais, Etorofu and Kunashiri after World War II.

Tokyo demands the return of the islands as a prerequisite for massive financial assistance to Russia and the conclusion of a peace treaty with Moscow, but also takes the stand that it will be flexible on the timing and method of their reversion if Moscow recognizes the islands as an integral part of Japan.

Kozyrev reportedly expressed his desire to see great strides in resolving the decades-old territorial dispute.

"Arrangements for a presidential visit to Japan are entering the final phase," Kozyrev was quoted as saying. "The time for domestic consumption is over and now is the time for us to initiate the active diplomacy that will create a real turning point for substantial and realistic relations between Japan and Russia."

Watanabe is reported to have told Kozyrev, "if we can agree in principle (on Japan's sovereignty over the islands), economic cooperation will be extended in a more dynamic fashion."

The Japanese foreign minister is currently preparing his stance for a tete-a-tete with Yeltsin on Wednesday, the officials said.

After the foreign ministerial talks, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a press statement pledging efforts to negotiate a "mutually acceptable" settlement of the territorial row based on principles of law and justice.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1128 GMT on 1 September transmits a report on the talks which adds the following: "'We are determined to ensure the success of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan', Michio Watanabe, the Japanese foreign minister, told reporters. He made this statement after the conclusion of the first round of the negotiations with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev. Watanabe said that the documents the Russian president is to sign during his visit in mid-September were worked out by the chiefs of the foreign policy agencies on Tuesday. The Japanese minister said the preparations proceed successfully.] ["Kozyrev told reporters that Yeltsin is to sign more than ten documents in Tokyo. He said the documents are being formulated.] ["The sides expressed the mutual conviction that the visit of the Russian president will become a historic event in Russo-Japanese relations and will turn them to genuine goodneighbourliness and partnership, says an official report for the press. The problem of concluding a peace treaty between Russia and Japan, including Russo- Japanese territorial delimitation, was discussed at the negotiations. The sides confirmed the intention to seek a mutually acceptable solution to these problems on a basis of the principles of law and justice."]

Burbulis Meets Watanabe

LD0209091392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—A broad exchange of opinions on the entire range of Russo-Japanese relations was held on Wednesday [1 September] morning during the meeting in the Kremlin between Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary at the Russian president, and Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe. Greeting the guest, Burbulis expressed the hope that the present bilateral problems will be resolved "to the benefit of our states and peoples".

After the meeting which lasted for almost two hours Burbulis's press secretary told reporters, without going into detail of the negotiations, that they were held in preparation of a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and the Japanese foreign minister, planned for later today.

Yeltsin Meets Watanabe

OW0209101792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At midday September 2 talks began in the Kremlin between President Yeltsin and Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe. Earlier, the Japanese guest had met with State Secretary for the President Gennadiy Burbulis. It was a preliminary meeting on the eve of the talks with the president, Burbulis's press secretary said. A participant in the meeting said that it "revealed the two states' similar strategic approaches to a number of vitally important problems".

Yeltsin Remarks on Timing of Return

OW0209110492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1052 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 2 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Wednesday [2 September] the present time is not desirable for turning over to Japan four disputed islands now occupied by Russia, a presidential spokesman said.

Yeltsin said Japan's stance on the bilateral territorial dispute over the past year has overheated public opinion in both Japan and Russia, making it difficult to resolve the row when he met Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, the spokesman said.

"Japan has been putting pressure on Russia economically, politically and psychologically. Given this situation, it is difficult to resolve the territorial dispute," Yeltsin was quoted as saying.

The Russian president also told Watanabe he is now considering 12 approaches to settling the dispute and intends to relay his ideas to Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa during his trip to Japan on September 13-16, the spokesman said.

Watanabe, who arrived Moscow on Saturday [29 August] for a weeklong stay, is expected to set the agenda for Yeltsin's tour of Japan.

The former Soviet Union seized the four islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets soon after the end of World War II.

Japan has been demanding their return as a prerequisite for massive financial assistance to Russia and the conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty.

But Tokyo also takes the stance that it will be flexible on the timing and method for the return of the islands if Moscow recognizes Japan's ownership of the territories.

Yeltsin Rejects Japanese 'Pressure'

LD0209110192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting between President Yeltsin and Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe is taking place in Moscow. As our correspondent, who has just returned from this meeting, reports, in violation of the standard protocol for talks of this kind Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's press secretary, told journalists in very great detail about the talks immediately after they ended. Moreover, he made his own subjective remarks.

[Begin Kostikov recording] Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin said that over the past year prior to the visit Japan's position on the Northern Territories has only complicated a settlement of the issue and has inflamed the situation in terms of public opinion in both Russia and Japan. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin said pretty firmly that Russia cannot resolve these problems, and the president cannot resolve the problem under the condition of any kind of pressure, whether economic, political, or psychological. Any pressure will only make a solution of this issue more difficult.

I got the impression that Japan's desire to present its stance as a flexible one is an imitation of flexibility, and from today's conversation it did not emerge that Japan is prepared to manifest a truly flexible approach to solving this issue. [end recording]

Talks End; No New Proposals on Kurils

LD0209110592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—"Boris Yeltsin did not hear in principle any new proposals" from the Japanese side as regards a settlement of the Kurils issue," Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the president of Russia, told journalists here today.

Speaking about the results of a 35-minute meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in the Kremlin, Kostikov said the position set out during the meeting by the Japanese side "is well known to the president of Russia and "has long been known to the Russian public".

Watanabe said that the Japanese side knew about Boris Yeltsin's plan for a five-stage settlement. The minister tried to find out whether there was any alternative to the plan, Kostikov said.

"Boris Yeltsin evaded a discussion of the matter, reaffirming his already known viewpoint that he will speak about that during his forthcoming talks in Tokyo," the presidential press secretary said.

At the same time, Kostikov added, the two sides expressed hope that the Russian president's forthcoming visit to Japan in mid-September would be crowned with success, "although it followed from the talks that there still exist certain complexities and friction in specifying positions at foreign ministries' level".

Yeltsin To Fly Directly to Tokyo

OW0209113792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 2 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will fly directly to Tokyo from Moscow on September 13 for his visit to Japan and forego a planned overnight stay in the Russian Far East city of Khabarovsk, presidential secretary Viktor Ilyushin said Wednesday [2 September].

Ilyushin said the president will rest in Tokyo and take up his planned official schedule September 14.

It was originally planned that Yeltsin would spend the evening of September 13 in Khabarovsk to overcome the effects of jet lag.

Japanese Official Reiterates Stand on Kurils

LD0109185592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—As soon as a basic agreement on return of the four Kuril islands to Japan is reached, the Japanese Government will take a very flexible stand as regards the term and form of their return, speaker of the visiting Japanese delegation Seiji Morimoto told a briefing for Russian and foreign correspondents here today.

Today's negotiations considered the upcoming Japanese visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin scheduled for this September, documents to be signed during the visit and the territorial issues, the speaker told correspondents.

Speaking on the Kuril issue, Morimoto noted Japan considers Kunashir, Iturup, Shikotan and Habomai as islands historically belonging to it and expressed the hope for a possibility of a just solution of the issue.

The speaker said Japan is interested in the development of economic relations with Russia, noting progress on the territorial issues will ensure the progress in economic cooperation. He stressed the territorial issue cannot be avoided.

Asked on the Russian stand on the territorial issue, Morimoto expressed the hope the Russian side will proceed from the principles of justice and lawfulness in this issue.

Kurils Inhabitants Polled on Returning Islands

OW0109171792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 49.6% of inhabitants of the three South Kuril Islands—Shikotan, Kunashir, and Iturup—are in favor of turning the territories over to Japan and want a peace agreement to be made with Japan; 31.7% are against giving the islands to Japan, and 15.5% want the islands to be governed by Russia and Japan jointly. These statistics were cited (from a report made by the Yukosotsiyo sociological service) by Peoples' Deputies of the Russian Federation Sergey Yushenkov, Gleb Yakunin, and Lev Ponomarev at a press conference in Moscow Tuesday [31 August] after their visit to Kurils.

According to the deputies, the positions of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry and Parliament's democratic wing are being distorted in the local mass media. Gleb Yakunin blamed "Governor" of the Sakhalinsk Region Valentin Fedorov for this.

"If Russia does not find common ground with Japan on this issue," remarked the deputy, "then the matter could be turned over to an international court." At the press conference it was pointed out that an economic crisis has developed on the Kuril Islands. The islands seriously lack food and fuel.

The deputies believe it is essential that South Kuril be granted the right to independently manage the region's natural resources and to lower tax rates. They indicated that a corresponding decree from the Russian president should be signed before his visit to Japan.

Two Pacific Fleet Ships To Join Gulf Forces

LD0109120392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—Russia will send two warships to the Persian Gulf, TASS learned from Chief of Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Viktor Dubynin on Tuesday [1 September].

The big anti-submarine ship "Admiral Vinogradov" and the "Boris Butoma" tanker both from the Russian Pacific Fleet are expected to leave for the Gulf in the first ten days of September, he said.

They will join the international peace-keeping mission in the Gulf initiated by the U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq.

The voyage from a base in the Russian Far East to the Gulf may take a fortnight.

PRC Defense Minister Concludes Visit

LD0109184792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 1 Sep 92

["Novosti" newscast video report on meeting between PRC Defense Minister Qin Jiwei and Acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, including recorded remarks by Gaydar; place and date not given]

[Text] [Announcer] The official visit of Colonel General Qin Jiwei, PRC defense minister, to our country has ended. Mutual desire to develop relations was expressed during the meeting with Yegor Gaydar. Moreover, Yegor Gaydar stressed that overcoming in full those elements of confrontation which used to exist between our countries has strengthened the geopolitical positions of Russia and China.

Touching on military and technical cooperation, which is rapidly growing, he noted mutual interest in this topic. Supplies to China allow Russia to make use of the capacities of our defense industry.

Answering journalists' questions, Gaydar refuted rumors about a forthcoming increase of fuel prices.

[Gaydar] I can say that the circulated canard that prices for petrol are to go up to 37 rubles per liter was viewed in the government with great bewilderment.

Views Talks' 'Openness'

PM0109104792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 92 p 1

[Report under the "Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Center Reports" rubric: "'The Visit Was Brief, but the Friendship Is Eternal'"]

[Text] With these words Colonel General Qin Jiwei, PRC defense minister, summed up his visit to Russia during a 31 August meeting with Ye. Gaydar, acting prime minister of the Russian Federation.

Both sides had advocated the all-around development of mutually advantageous ties between Russia and China, including ties in the military technical sphere, and exchanged opinions in this regard.

Col. Gen. Qin Jiwei expressed profound gratitude to Russian Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev for the warm welcome. We found a common language, the Chinese guest pointed out, and all questions of mutual interest were resolved in an atmosphere of openness and amicability.

The Chinese defense minister visited military academies and Zvezdnyy Gorodok and went to St. Petersburg, Volgograd, and Sochi. He had talks with Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy.

An official send-off ceremony for the Chinese delegation took place 31 August. Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev participated in the ceremony.

Denies Plan To Buy Aircraft Carrier

LD0109175592 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] An ITAR-TASS correspondent reported from Moscow yesterday that during the meeting between Acting Premier Yegor Gaydar and PRC Defense Minister Qin Jiwei, the latter refuted information that the Chinese Government intends to buy the Varyag aircraft carrier from Ukraine. He described the information as groundless rumors.

UN Envoy on Secretary General's Upcoming Visit

LD0109163992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1602 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—Addressing a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists at the Russian Foreign Ministry press centre today, U.N. Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovskiy said he arrived in Moscow to prepare U.N. Chief Butrus-Ghali's official visit to Russia.

According to Petrovskiy, Ghali will visit Russia from September 4 to 7. On the programme of his visit are meetings with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and several events involving representatives of the public.

On the results of his trip to Libya and the meeting with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Petrovskiy said some positive shifts have emerged in that country's position. He emphasised, however, that if the Security Council resolution is not fulfilled, additional sanctions against Libya can be enacted before the 120-day postponement expires.

Petrovskiy rejected suspicions that the United Nations Organisation passed decisions to support sanctions against Iraq under pressure from a number of states. The adopted law is the law and should be scrupulously complied with irrespective of who supported and who opposed it. The same concerns U.N. Security Council decisions. "This is the only way to prevent bloodshed in the period of civilised changes," Petrovskiy added.

Petrovskiy furthermore noted that in the U.N. they show great concern over the developments in Abkhazia. He said a proposal was sent to Georgian leaders as regards dispatching a U.N. mission to the conflict-torn area to collect information. Petrovskiy recalled that the work of the similar mission during the conflict in the Dniester region produced tangible results.

Petrovskiy described the ongoing armed conflict in Nagorno- Karabakh as one "bleeding wound" that seriously worries the U.N. He said that relying on the results of the work of two U.N. missions in Karabakh, the U.N. actively joined together with the CSCE preparations for a regional conference on Nagorno-Karabakh in Minsk.

South Korean President on Yeltsin's First Visit

LD0209082892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0801 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yevgeniy Menkes and Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul September 2 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's first official visit to South Korea will serve to strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in all fields, President No Tae-u of the Republic of Korea told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview.

A treaty on the principles of relations between the two countries, which is to be signed at summit level during the forthcoming visit, will serve to elevate the two countries' relations, based on such universal human values as freedom and democracy, and transform them into future-oriented allied relations, No said.

The South Korean president expressed hope that the possibility of an in-depth discussion of proposals aimed at promoting peace, security, reconciliation and cooperation on the Korean peninsula will arise during Russo-South Korean talks in Seoul at summit level.

No Tae-u expressed satisfaction with a steady development of contacts between the Republic of Korea and Russia, emphasising that progress in Russo-South Korean relations is expected to make a big contribution to removing the legacy of the cold-war times in Northeast Asia and to opening "a new era of reconciliation and cooperation" in the area.

"Relations between the Republic of Korea and Russia, just as with the United States and Japan, and now with China as well, will substantially promote stability and prosperity in the region," the president said.

Following the end of the cold war, as Russia's and China's integration into the market economy system accelerates, cooperation among Northeast Asian states, including Russia, China, North and South Korea, and Japan, gradually gains in scope, the South Korean president said.

The need to broaden economic cooperation among Northeast Asian states particularly grows in view of the intensification of the activities of the world's economic blocs, including the European Community and the North American free trade zone, he said.

A big contribution to the development of all countries of the Northeast Asian region will be made if they strengthen cooperation among themselves, mutually complementing the merits of one another—the development and management experience of South Korea, the ultra-modern technologies and capital of Japan, the labour force of China and North Korea, and the natural resources of Russia, No pointed out.

Asked about prospects for a reunification of the Korean people, No Tae-u said that during the period of his presidential powers that are to expire in February next year, he has been seeking to improve relations with the former socialist countries by means of a "northern diplomacy" policy, and has created "external conditions" for a reunification of South and North Korea.

In addition, "knocking at the door of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation with North Korea evoked a response and rendered the door open." As a result, an agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, exchanges and cooperation was signed by the prime ministers of the two sides at the recent talks and the discussion of ways to implement it was started, No said.

"If this discussion proceeds successfully and if the sides wholeheartedly implement the accords, a peaceful reunification of South and North Korea within a short period of time through the establishment of a national community will become a real achievement," the South Korean president pointed out.

Industry Minister Visits ROK, Signs Memorandum

LD0109215492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1514 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul, 1 Sep (TASS)—South Korea and Russia will expand bilateral cooperation and the exchange of information in various production sectors and also in the conversion of the Russian defense industry. An understanding on this was attained here today between Aleksandr Titkin, the Russian Federation's industry minister, who is visiting Seoul, and Han Pong-su, his South Korean counterpart.

Aleksandr Titkin explained in conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that South Korea has sophisticated technology in the field of consumer goods production, while in Russia vast capacities are being freed during conversion of the defense industry. At the same time, Russia has high technology in military production of a defensive character in which Seoul is interested, and it is in this connection that the concept of a mutually beneficial technological exchange was devised.

In accordance with the results of the Russian-South Korean talks, a memorandum of mutual understanding has been signed, expanding cooperation between the Russian Federation's Industry Ministry and Korea's Trade and Industry Ministry. According to this document, which came into force today, the sides will seek to broaden bilateral ties in machine building, electronics, the chemical industry, metallurgy, shipbuilding, and the

aerospace field. The prospects are joint research projects, an exchange between technological institutes, cooperation in the field of marketing, and in the creation of joint enterprises on the territory of Russia, South Korea, or third countries.

The sides agreed to set up by the end of this year a committee to monitor the implementation of the memorandum and also to open missions of the two ministries in Moscow and Seoul in order to exchange information more efficiently.

Concludes Visit

LD0209103792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0631 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul September 2 TASS—Aleksandr Titkin, Russian industry minister, ended his six-day visit to South Korea with the conclusion of a series of accords about cooperation and exchange of technologies in diverse spheres of industry between Russia and the Korean republic.

Titkin told ITAR-TASS that the main aim of the visit was to establish contacts directly between manufacturers of the two countries and to study the possibility of setting up joint projects. As a result Russia, and South Korea agreed to cooperate, including South Korean entrepreneurs' participation in conversion of the Russian Defence industry. Both sides also agreed to assist exchange of information between each other's largest technological centres.

At the conclusion of the talks Aleksandr Titkin and South Korea's minister of commerce and industry, Han Pong-su, signed a memorandum of understanding to broaden cooperation between the departments headed by them. According to this document, concluded for a period of five years, they will develop bilateral relations in spheres of machine-building, electronics, chemical industry, metallurgy, ship-building and aerospace. Coordination bureaus of the two ministries will be opened in Moscow and Seoul in the near future.

Agreement on ROK Customs Cooperation Noted

SK0209100192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0726 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia agreed Wednesday [2 September] to strengthen cooperation between their customs agencies to improve customs clearance procedures and prevent drug smuggling and other illegal types of bilateral trade.

A South Korean delegation led by Pak Won-ku, administrator of the Office of Customs Administration, and a Russian delegation headed by Anatoliy Krugalov, chairman of the Russian customs committee, reached the agreement at the end of the first Korea-Russia customs cooperation meeting here from Monday through Wednesday.

Korea was assured of reciprocal customs clearance status for goods traded between the two countries and an end to hardships Korean traders have faced in customs clearance procedures, Pak said.

Russian customs agents have delayed notificiation of arrival, leading to complaints from Korean businessmen and firms.

The two sides initialed an accord on bilateral customs assistance that includes exchanges of information for the prevention of, and a crackdown on, customs crime, cooperation in research and development of new systems and procedures in customs administration, and exchanges of personnel and educational programs, Pak said.

The agreement is expected to be signed during the visit to Seoul of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Sept. 16-18, he added.

Ministry Aide Interviewed on Korean Policy

PM2808151692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Aug 92 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Georgiy Toloraya, chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry Korea Department, by Sergey Kukhar; place, date not given: "Must Russia Choose One of the Two Koreas?"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] In the stifling August of 1945, the last salvoes of World War II marked the end of nearly 40 years of Japanese colonial domination in Korea. A good many of our soldiers gave their lives for Korea's freedom. But, having forced the Japanese Army to surrender, they only got as far as the 38th parallel, under the allies' Potsdam accords. Two weeks later, without a shot being fired, the Americans landed in southern Korea, establishing their own occupying regime. The new chapter in the Korean people's history started with partition.

For reasons that are well known, for many years the Soviet Union gave its support—including weapons deliveries and economic aid—only to the "socialist choice" in the North, apparently failing to notice southern Korea. What has changed today, what are our interests and priorities in this neighboring peninsula, which is strategically important to Russia? What are our goals in South Korea, which the Russian president is to visit soon, and what do we expect of it?

Georgiy Toloraya, chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry Korea Department, answers these and other questions put by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Toloraya] Today we seek to maintain normal relations with both the DPRK and the ROK. And this is of fundamental importance: The nature of our foreign policy should be deideologized.

Among the nearby Asian countries, Korea is our natural partner. There are no stains, in my view, on the history of Russia's relations with it. Nor are there any particularly difficult problems today. Our peoples have long regarded each other with sympathy and friendliness. Koreans fleeing foreign oppression, whether it be the peasants who sought refuge in the Far East or the Korean king himself, who took refuge from the Japanese in our mission in Seoul, have always met with help and support from Russians.

In 1945 we fought a common enemy. Even today our nations and states do not have contradictory objectives, in the long term.

Russia's interests are well served by the creation, close to its borders, of a peace-loving, flourishing, unified Korean state open to cooperation with its neighbors.

Our two peoples could make a weighty contribution to the creation of a new Asia—the Asia of the 21st century. It is due to these considerations that we are promoting the establishment of intra-Korean dialogue, cooperation with the United States, China, and Japan, and the elimination of obstacles such as those associated with Seoul's concern over the DPRK nuclear program.

[Kukhar] Is the picture you paint not too idyllic? Is it really true that we do not have any problems at all, as "befits" even the most exemplary neighbors who, moreover, have lived next door to each other for a long time?

[Toloraya] There are problems, of course. But I do not want to dramatize them. In both Seoul and Pyongyang there are people who distrust Russia. Some people cannot forget the 1983 tragedy of the Korean airliner KAL-007, some people want us to apologize for the USSR's role in the Korean war. Some people think our stance in the human rights sphere is excessively principled, while others sincerely see the democratic reforms in Russia as an "attack on the foundations"... However, grievances and misunderstandings of this kind, which are natural between neighbors, should not call into question the main asset—the common historical destinies of our peoples in a new, post-confrontational world.

[Kukhar] Could you tell us in more detail the view of the "Korean supremo," so to speak, on the aforementioned difficult questions in relations with Seoul and Pyongyang?

[Toloraya] As for the tragedy of the Korean Boeing, things are more or less clear: The new Russian Government, without being morally responsible for the barbarous destruction of a civil airliner, deeply regrets the tragedy and has expressed willingness to look for documentary evidence if required. But I doubt whether all the pieces of this still very mysterious mosaic are to be found in our country.

But should we stir up the very recent past and reopen old wounds that appeared to be healing? Judge for yourself: It would be strange for the leaders of the new Russia, for instance, to apologize for Stalin's deeds and his role in unleashing the fratricidal Korean war, especially since his was by no means the most important role in that.

Of course, it is not difficult for Russia, which has rejected its communist past, to drag out into the light of day bloody chapters from the archives. But will this help the very fragile process of strengthening confidence in and around the Korean peninsula? When, for instance, Seoul's relations with Beijing have only just been normalized...

[Kukhar] In the mass media, and not only there, there is talk of a certain pro-Seoul orientation in Russian foreign policy, and even of betrayal of the DPRK. Can these accusations be said to be totally groundless, when on his first Asian tour Boris Yeltsin is to visit only Seoul?

[Toloraya] You see, today, fortunately, we profess the ideals of democracy, freedom, the market economy...

Moreover, we regard relations with the ROK as one of the priorities in our Asian policy.

The treaty which is intended to crown the Russian president's stay in Seoul will consolidate the process of gravitation between our countries, which in three years have traveled the path from mutual nonrecognition and hostility to friendly partnership.

Incidentally, Beijing has also embarked on the path of cooperation with Seoul, having formerly heeded Pyongyang's persistent requests and refrained from doing this. We regard the PRC's step as normal and in no way damaging to the DPRK.

[Kukhar] What lies in the future?

[Toloraya] In the future, I am convinced, Russia and South Korea will derive the greatest benefit from realizing the potential inherent in their complementarity in the economy and in the scientific and technical sphere. In order to realize that potential, which, incidentally, academics used to put forward as the weightiest argument in favor of political normalization, considerable mutual efforts are needed. South Korean businessmen are not exactly rushing to invest capital in us, they are keeping one eye on the government. With the approach of presidential elections, a time when the subject of economic aid and the exportation of capital is not very popular, the government is naturally restrained in its attitude toward their projects.

Nonetheless the attitude to the new, democratic Russia in the ROK is good. Let me remind you that that country is also undergoing a process of democratization. Although a residual perception of Russia as the heir to the imperial Union, albeit in somewhat curtailed form, may still persist in some places, I think the prevailing view is a healthy awareness that our country is not only a very rich market and source of raw materials and fundamental research, but to a significant degree a guarantor of the just resolution of the Korean problem.

In Seoul, for instance, I have repeatedly heard it said that the "key" to a unified Korea lies in Moscow. This is an

exaggeration, of course, but the Korean people can count firmly on Russia's doing everything necessary to promote national reconciliation and a peaceful, democratic settlement on the Korean peninsula.

[Kukhar] What are relations like today with Pyongyang—our former ideological ally, the "eastern outpost" of socialism?

[Toloraya] That military siege terminology is no longer appropriate in characterizing our relations with Pyongyang. The militarist spirit has disappeared almost entirely from those relations. Unfortunately, with the switch to settlements in freely convertible currency and at world prices, economic cooperation has been reduced. But at least it is now based on mutual benefit and real mutual interest. If anything is holding it back now, it is not economic considerations.

Thus a none too healthy situation has arisen over Korean timber enterprises in the Far East. There is the problem of the North Korean debt—it is in excess of 3 billion rubles. But we are not inclined to overemphasize this problem, in view of the difficult situation facing the DPRK economy. Of course, contradictions in the ideological and social structure complicate what you could call the "exchange of experience." But should it really matter all that much to you and me what god or idol our neighbor worships, if he is punctilious and civilized in his relations with us and with others and is prepared for cooperation and mutual assistance?

That is why we are keeping the 1961 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, although many expressions used in it seem archaic today, and we are prepared to develop collaboration in all spheres. We realize, of course, that Pyongyang views the Russian reforms with suspicion and that some people were tempted to make a major political affair out of the episode of the North Korean graduate student who asked us for political asylum for religious reasons. At the same time this episode is of a purely humanitarian nature and has nothing to do with interstate relations, still less is there any reason to see it as part of some kind of anti-Pyongyang action...

Today we see no alternative to relations that are correct and based on respect for freedom of choice and equality. Smooth relations with the DPRK and support for its desire to join the world community (and this is indicated by its attempts to normalize relations with Tokyo and even with its former enemy, the United States) are the guarantee of peace and the lessening of tension close to Russia's borders.

We face a choice: whom to prefer—our new friends, or our old ones. The history of a state such as Russia was and remains, and its potential, give us grounds for pursuing an autonomous policy in Korean affairs, a policy that meets our own interests.

Yeltsin's Meeting With Tajik Leader Postponed

LD0109142192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 1 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—By mutual agreement the meeting between President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and President Rakhmon Nabiyev of Tajikistan, and the signing of a treaty between the two states is being postponed. In the words of Vyacheslav Kostikov, the press secretary of the Russian president, this is because of the situation in Tajikistan.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told at Tajikistan's permanent mission in Russia that Rakhmon Nabiyev is unable at present to come to Moscow because of the aggravated situation in Dushanbe.

Further on Yeltsin-Snegur Dniester Talks

OW0109161792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In keeping with a previous agreement, the Presidents of Russia and Moldova, Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur, have had a meeting in Moscow today to discuss ways of speeding up the settlement of the conflict in the Dniester region of Moldova and the development of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

According to their joint communique, both Presidents are satisfied with the way in which measures stipulated by the July 21 agreement are being carried out and commended the support on the part of the UN and the CSCE.

The joint efforts of officials from Russia, Moldova, and the Dniester region, the Presidents emphasized, have served to put an end to bloodshed, restore peace, and provide favorable conditions for a political settlement on the basis of principles laid down in the communique of the previous meeting. In this connection the Presidents called on the conflicting parties to meet as soon as possible and without making any preliminary conditions to each other in order to negotiate a political settlement with a special status to be given to the Dniester region. Yeltsin expressed Russia's readiness to give the parties whatever assistance they might need in such negotiations.

The Presidents also discussed the course of the current negotiations on military issues between government delegations from the two states, which have already yielded some concrete results and will be continued.

Yeltsin and Snegur decided to make a joint request to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to provide normal maintenance for the Russian 14th Army as it is passes through Ukrainian territory on its way from Moldova.

The Presidents emphasized that, as was made clear by a recent working meeting between a Moldovan delegation led by Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli and a Russian one including Yegor Gaydar and ministers in charge of the principal industries, the strengthening of contacts between the two countries at various levels would ensure more effective cooperation between them.

Yeltsin and Snegur decided to take personal charge of various aspects of relations between their countries in order to speed up the working out of mutually acceptable solutions to practical problems.

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] before leaving for Moscow, Snegur said, "Russia has an influence on the mentality of the Dniester leaders, which means that, before any concrete measures are taken, it would make sense to discuss with the Kremlin the status of the Dniester region.

IF note: Earlier on that the President of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, Igor Smirnov, sent a letter to Yeltsin expressing the conviction that the further participation of his republic in the negotiations on the settlement of the conflict would serve to stabilize the situation there. He gave a high appraisal of the "active mediatory role of Russia in the Dniester region, which made it possible to stop bloodshed and take the first steps to the settlement of the conflict, and was also responsible for certain changes in the policy of Moldova on the rights of the Russian- speaking population." The attempts to subjugate the Dniester region by force had been thwarted, which spelled out defeat for the extreme right-wing nationalist forces of Moldova and might help establish in Moldova real democracy based on general human values, Smirnov stressed in his letter.

Ministry Prepares for Georgia-Abkhaz Talks

OW0109145492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin and others—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to information available to DP [Diplomatic Panorama], Russia's Foreign Ministry is now engaged in intensive preparations for a meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia. The meeting is designed to settle the armed conflict in Abkhazia as soon as possible.

According to some sources, Russian diplomats are concluding their work on a series of proposals aimed at ceasing fire and disengaging the warring sides. They have drafted an agreement on the principles of settlement and planned the possible sites for deploying military units which, if agreements are reached, will act as peace-keepers.

On the other hand, the sources that granted this information said they are puzzled by the fact that Abkhazia has become a place of pilgrimage for many Russian political and public figures since the armed conflict began there. There is no doubt that the visitors have the best of intentions, but, whether they want it or not, their actions only lead to a further escalation of military confrontation, the sources said.

Yeltsin Denies Troops Shell Georgian Units

OW0109170692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin categorically dismissed reports that Russian armed forces' participated in shelling Georgian units in Abkhazia. In a brief interview with an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent, Vyacheslav Terekhov, he said that he did not consider that his meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze was in jeopardy. Prior to this, the Georgian leader warned him that if the shelling was indeed confirmed, the negotiations in Moscow on September 3rd would not be held.

"This morning I had a telephone conversation with Shevardnadze. A grinding plant in Gudauta was, in fact, attacked, but Russian armed forces did not participate in it. I am certain that the meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow on September 3 will take place", said the Russian President.

Moscow Concerned Over Citizens in Abkhazia

OW0109194892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government expressed its grave concern that Georgian fighting units have recently escalated their military actions by transferring tanks and heavy artillery to the Sukhumi and Gagra region. A Russian government statement distributed in Moscow Tuesday [1 September] notes that "residential districts and Russian military units temporarily located in Abkhazia and preserving strict neutrality found themselves under fire" and that Russian citizens in the conflict area are in life-threatening danger.

"This deserves the strictest judgment," the statement reads, "even more so because this is taking place in spite of the cease-fire treaty effective as of August 31". The Russian government "strictly warned the initiators of the consequences of any such similar actions taken by them." The Russian government called upon the Georgian State Committee and all other forces involved in the Abkhazian conflict to "do everything possible to end further bloodshed and stop the fighting". In the government's opinion, "this would be a very serious step in beginning the negotiations process and arriving at an agreement for peaceful regulation at the September 3 Moscow meeting".

Warplanes Transferred To Protect Caucasus Troops

LD0109212592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 1 September—Eight Su-25 low-level attack aircraft of the Russian Air Force were transferred today to a military airbase near Krasnodar. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed by the Russian Armed Forces general staff that the redeployment of the aircraft is a precautionary measure aimed at ensuring the safety of Russian troops deployed in the Caucasus.

N. Ossetian Leader Warns of Possible Civil War

LD0209123892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 2 TASS—The events in Abkhazia may spread to the entire northern Caucasus and trigger off a civil war, Akhsarbek Galazov, speaker of the North Ossetian parliament, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [2 September]. The Russian leadership must assume a peace-making mission to settle the armed conflict and must use its entire authority for the purpose.

The speaker of the North Ossetian parliament together with the republic's Prime Minister Sergey Khetagurov flew to Moscow on Wednesday. As is known, a meeting of the delegations of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia, as well as representatives of republics, territories and regions of the northern Caucasus is to be held in Moscow on September 3 on problems of the settlement of the armed conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia.

"I pin great hopes on the forthcoming meeting in Moscow", Galazov said. "The priority task in the zone of the conflict is the ceasefire and the withdrawal from the Abkhazian territory of Georgian units and units of the Confederation of Highland Peoples of the Caucasus, the opening of the negotiations and thus creating conditions for a political settlement of the complex situation in the region".

The speaker of the North Ossetian parliament proposes the "Ossetian model" as a basis for fair solution to arising problems and observing lawful interests and rights of the conflicting parties. The "Ossetian model" of the settlement of a socio-political situation has yielded positive results in South Ossetia. Mixed armed forces of Russia, Georgia and Ossetia have been implementing a peace-making mission there for the second month. The fratricidal war has been ended in the region. People return to their homes. The economic recovery began.

Political Issues

More on Burbulis' Forecast for Government

PM0209091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov report: "Gennadiy Burbulis: The Present Government Will Continue to Hold Out in Power in the 'Hot Fall'"]

[Text] Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary to the Russian Federation president, believes that Yegor Gaydar's government will hold out this fall, which is expected to be extremely "hot" from the political point of view. In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent he assessed the chances of Arkadiy Volskiy or Vladimir Shcherbakov, the former vice premier in the last USSR government, of becoming the new prime minister as "an absolute delusion." Forecasts of this kind on this subject, in the state secretary's words, "have no foundation."

In connection with the summer appointments to vice premierships in the present government of a number of representatives of the so-called "industrial lobby," Gennadiy Burbulis expressed the opinion that today in Russia "politics is moving into the plane of professional performance of a job." He believes that "we should welcome the fact that people capable and able of doing the practical work of reforms have come into the government, and that Russian sovereignty [derzhavnost] and Russian statehood as the supreme value are sacred and unshakable principles for them."

The state secretary stated that there is no confrontation within the government, and "moral and professional unity is maintained in macroreforms and sector reforms." In this connection Gennadiy Burbulis, who was first vice premier of the present cabinet until last April, has formed his own vision of the two basic priorities by which, in his opinion, the present members of the Cabinet of Ministers should be guided. "First, we need a comprehensive industrial policy. We need to say finally that we have a unique inheritance which we do not have the right to spurn—our national technological base. Yes, it was created on militarized priorities, but we cannot destroy the resources and natural riches that were invested in it just to change the form of management overnight," he said. The state secretary cited as the government's second priority a "comprehensive regional policy."

Speaking of the Russian leadership's overall political strategy, Gennadiy Burbulis said that adherents of reform have "fought long and hard to gain recognition of the need for a comprehensive liberal-democratic platform of Russian reforms," which "should be constituted within the next few months, primarily on a professional rather than a political basis." It is a question of uniting, in his words, those "who saw themselves as devoted to the Russian transformations." Russia, the state secretary continued, "has to carry out its reforms by seeking the economic freedom of the citizen." At the same time the state should defend the citizen from the legal viewpoint and "abandon the hypocritical and spurious task of attempting to regulate relations between our citizens on the basis of social justice."

Touching on his attitude to the political opponents of the current Russian leadership, who are forecast to seek "a final and decisive battle" with the government and president this fall, Gennadiy Burbulis stated that this would be "adventurism." "Our political opponents exaggerate their possibilities when they formulate stances on behalf of the whole Russian population," he stressed. "In fact there is a large distance between the mood of the Russian people, who, in my view, totally rule out a return to the past, and the politically active milieu that is cashing in on the quite justified muteness of the majority of the population, which...is today occupied with practical matters of the day," the state secretary believes.

Stepashin on Putsch, Economic Stabilization

OW2808194292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talk of another possible putsch is totally inappropriate, according to Chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Defence and Security Committee Sergey Stepashin who was speaking to IF [INTERFAX].

He said that he could imagine not one normal person today who would support any organisation capable of planning any kind of revolution. He considered that the events of last August have confirmed once more that a repeat is not likely, and the Defence, Security and Interior Ministry leaders are not even concerned about it. He stressed that it was naive to think about this now.

He expressed the idea that it was necessary today to stabilise the country's economy. If this was not done, then a potentially uncontrollable situation could arise with the support of the increasingly impoverished nation.

Stepashin also pointed out that the current situation could provoke a return to totalitarianism. This situation requires a clear cut division of parliamentary, judicial and executive power to enable a democratic Russia to avoid the danger of slipping back into a totalitarian regime.

Parliament, Government Disagree on President

OW0109195392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice-Premier Boris Saltykov chaired a meeting which sought to eliminate the "serious differences" between two alternative drafts for a law on state service,

one of which had been prepared by experts authorized by the president and government, and the other, by a parliamentary committee.

IF [INTERFAX] note: A single final draft will be considered by the cabinet on September 7.

In an interview with IF, an assistant to the authors of the government's draft pointed out the following principal differences: 1. The government regards as state officials only those taking part in the preparation of decisions, whose number is between six and seven million. The parliament includes in this category all those working in state institutions.

2. The government wants to put the president in charge of state officials, thereby stressing his special role. The parliament does not want to put the president above state officials but regards him as a state official too.

3. The parliament proposes a table of 14 ranks giving the president no special status. The government suggests four groups of posts, Group A including the president and vice-president of the Russian Federation, and the presidents and vice-presidents of the republics within the Russian Federation.

4. The government proposes that state officials be prohibited from being members of any political parties and taking part in strikes. The parliament's draft has no such provisions.

Neither draft mentions any privileges to be granted to state officials, such as summer holiday homes or personal cars.

Deputy Minister Dismissed on Corruption Charges

LD0109210492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Text] A directive from the Russian Government relieves Gromyko, deputy Russian minister of health, from the post he occupies for violating the law on competition and restrictions on monopolist activities on the commodity markets and the Russian president's decree on corruption within the civil service system. This report comes from the ITAR-TASS agency.

Defense Ministry Collegium 26, 27 Aug Sessions

PM2808141192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 92 p 1

[Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Press Center report: "Collegium Session"]

[Text] The latest sessions of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Collegium were held on 26 and 27 August.

As people know, a group was set up on the instruction of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to draft an Overview of the Organizational Development of the Russian Armed Forces. The document drafted by it was examined by the collegium. On the whole the draft overview received approval. It is to be finalized in light of the discussion and subsequently submitted to the president.

Questions connected with tightening up discipline and protecting the lives and health of servicemen were also examined. The commanders of military districts, groups of forces, and fleets and their deputies in charge of work with personnel were invited to take part in discussion of them. Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, focused the attention of those assembled on one of the most important tasks—taking practical effective measures at the local level to prevent servicemen from suffering death or injury and to safeguard and improve their health.

A disturbing situation, related to the general economic instability in the country, prevails in the preparation of garrisons of Russian troops for winter, particularly in the North, the Transbaykal region, and the Far East. How to overcome the difficulties and what internal reserves can be brought into action to ensure that people are supplied with food, heat, electricity, and water were the range of issues that were constructively analyzed at the Ministry of Defense Collegium session.

Appropriate resolutions on the results of the discussion were adopted.

Information Analysis Chief Interviewed

PM0109143992 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Aug 92 p 2

[Interview with Professor Anatoliy Rakitov by correspondent Petr Akopov; place and date not given: "Information for the President"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Analytical information about strategic questions of Russia's development, expert assessments of basic processes, and forecasts and scenarios of the possible development of events are given for the president by the information and analysis center of the Russian Federation president's administration. Our correspondent talks with Professor Anatoliy Rakitov, leader of this center.

[Akopov] Anatoliy Ilich! What are the main information requirements for the president?

[Rakitov] Above all this information should be authentic and objective. No incidental factors should influence it. In terms of urgency our items are divided into three levels: the "express analysis," which is made on the spot, so to speak—at night, on Sunday, any day, immediately; "expedite" orders, work on which is carried out within a specified period, usually within a week; and "planned" analyses, which we produce constantly.

[Akopov] On what items have you worked recently?

[Rakitov] We recently made a brief analytical memorandum on the results of the economic reform over the year. Arguments that everything is bad, everything is

collapsing, everything is gloomy, have become commonplace. But there are also obvious advances. So in our memorandum we analyzed the positive results of the economic reform, what had been successfully done. This memorandum was sent to B. Yeltsin, Ye. Gaydar, G. Burbulis, and Yu. Petrov. In addition an item on the legal normative backup for the reform is virtually ready. With the aid of legal scholars we have carried out an analysis of the legislative activity of the president and the Supreme Soviet.

There are also positive achievements here: Legislation is being formed in the sphere of enterprise, human rights, and the activity of the constitutional organs.

For the first time we are trying by our own efforts to monitor the state of affairs in Russia. We have sent questionnaires to 72 regions and we are receiving replies very promptly. Information is supplied to us by the heads of administrations on several salient issues: on the progress of privatization, on the decline of production, on harvesting, and on political stabilization. For instance, the political situation in all 60 of the regions from which we have already received replies is assessed as stable. The fact that the production decline is continuing is also confirmed unanimously.

[Akopov] Do you completely trust the information supplied by the heads of the administrations?

[Rakitov] We must rely on various sources of information, which is what we do. We use information from the statistical committee, the federal government communications agency, various academy institutes, independent scientific institutions, and ministries and departments. These are traditional sources. But to ensure that information is objective, it must be compared. As for information from a local administration, after all the information is prepared not by the administration heads themselves but by the services under them. And it is important to us how they assess the situation. We are also very interested in how the analytical centers interpret the processes taking place in their regions since in turn that characterizes the political, economic, and legal activity of the administration. Comparing dozens of reports from different regions, it is possible to reveal general natural laws. With the aid of a content analysis we are trying to keep track of where there is a mass move in a particular direction—a so-called fixed error. Experienced analysts always note such an error and that makes it possible to correct it.

[Akopov] The president receives information from several sources that are independent of each other. What is your attitude toward that?

[Rakitov] I am opposed to monopolism and when there were attempts to concentrate all information in our center so that it could gather and transmit this information, I said that would be extremely harmful. The president should have several parallel channels of information which can concern even similar problems. Differences in assessments are a normal phenomenon and if there are discrepancies in facts that of course puts us on guard, although at the same time it is a reason for a lightning reaction, a signal to launch an analytical attack.

The questions in which the special services and general staff are engaged are not so important today. We are interested in domestic economic and social problems connected with the activity of parties, mass movements, and strike committees. There is a whole series of problems that are being studied only slightly in the country, for instance the study of social awareness as a factor that stabilizes or destabilizes society. We have learned the formula "being determines consciousness" and we do not notice that sometimes consciousness influences being more powerfully and can be a destabilizing factor.

[Akopov] Is it planned to create a single information analysis system for the country's leadership?

[Rakitov] Yes, on instructions from the president, steps are now being taken for the collaboration of information services of different levels. The analytical part is concentrated in our center, connected with all the information analysis services of the regions, ministries, and departments, and technical backup will be through the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency.

Economic & Trade Issues

Economics Minister on Economic Reform, Debts

AU3108142092 Vienna PROFIL in German 31 Aug 92 p 38

[Interview with Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev by Helmut Weixler; place and date not given: "The Debts Can Ruin Russia"]

[Text] [Weixler] Mr. Minister, you are regarded as a vigorous advocate of Minister President Yegor Gaydar's reform course. In view of the latest government reshuffles by Boris Yeltsin, the concern that Moscow might soon take another course was aroused in the West. Is economic reform endangered?

[Nechayev] This danger admittedly exists, but I do not think that it is very great at present. The reformers are in the majority, and the new government members are actually also in favor of reform. Differences of opinion exist above all regarding the tactics that are to be chosen.

[Weixler] For example?

[Nechayev] For example, the question of what loans the government may grant to enterprises.

[Weixler] Here the action of new Central Bank President Viktor Gerashchenko caused excitement. He granted new credits of 500 billion rubles [R] at the beginning of August. This further foments inflation and endangers economic stability, as the West fears.

[Nechayev] The enterprises simply need money for wages and investments. Therefore, we agreed to the

R500 billion. Actually, Gerashchenko wanted to grant another billion in addition. But we prevented this.

[Weixler] Precisely the replacement of former Central Bank President Georgiy Matyukhin, who wanted to curb the uncontrolled printing of rubles, by Gerashchenko in July is evaluated as another symptom of the antireformers' advancement.

[Nechayev] This is not true. Matyukhin lost the support of both sides, he was simply not professional enough for the task.

[Weixler] Despite fresh rubles for the Russian enterprises, they produce less and less. In 1990 it was 5 percent less and in 1991, 11 percent less. How much will it be this year?

[Nechayev] In the first six months, production declined by 12 percent, and we expect a decline of 18 percent for the whole of 1992.

[Weixler] To support Russia in its reform efforts, the Western states united in the G-24 decided in April to grant loans of $24 billion to Russia. How much of it have you already received?

[Nechayev] The IMF paid out a first tranche of $1 billion. We hope that we will get a total of about $6 billion by the end of the year—even from countries like the United States and Canada.

[Weixler] But you will only get the money if you make progress in the reforms.

[Nechayev] We have already achieved much. Prices were unfrozen. The exchange rate of the ruble was standardized and is now developed on the market. I am also optimistic that we will achieve the goals set by the IMF. The budget deficit has already been reduced to 5 percent of the gross national product. By the end of the year we also want to reduce inflation (which is currently about 20 percent per month—the editors) to 6 to 9 percent per month.

[Weixler] Opponents of the IMF, like the powerful president of the Russian entrepreneurs' association, Arkadiy Volskiy, are accusing Gaydar and you of too close cooperation with the IMF.

[Nechayev] There are people for whom the cooperation with the West goes too far. The IMF is only a symbol that can be easily understood. However, in principle the government agrees on the reform policy with the IMF. Of course, on many questions we are more realistic than the experts in Washington.

[Weixler] There was a fierce controversy over the question of energy prices. The IMF called for immediate liberalization.

[Nechayev] We cannot simply go up to the world market level at once because half of the Russian industry would not survive it. However, at the end of the year we will triple the energy prices, which will then amount to one-third of the world market price.

[Weixler] Russia not only calls for new credits, but also for a respite for its old debts.

[Nechayev] If we do not have to pay debts back now, this is as important as new loans. We took over more than 61 percent of the debts of the Soviet Union (which are estimated at about $70 billion—the editors). We are the only one of the successor republics that is currently servicing the debts. This year our repayments and interest payments will amount to about $4.5 billion. But the debt problem could ruin Russia. If the West permits this, it will be a loss for the whole world.

Adviser on Economic Reform, Foreign Trade

PM0109153892 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 28 Aug 92 (ERHVERV section) p 5

[Report on interview with Russian Government economic adviser Aleksey Ulyukayev by Flemming Rose in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] Moscow—The Western world's reticence in the face of the enormous, but at times chaotic Russian market has led the Russian Government to turn its attention to the Third World. Last week the Russian Foreign Ministry published a report that calls on the government to change its foreign economic strategy to the benefit of the Third World.

According to the report, given the prevailing conditions Russia will only be a raw materials appendix to the economies of Western countries if the government continues its one-sided efforts directed toward the rich countries of the West.

Aleksey Ulyukayev, a top economic adviser to the Russian Government, confirmed to BERLINGSKE TIDENDE that a change of political course is taking place.

"Our trade with China, India, and the Arab countries has increased significantly. These are enormous markets. Our exports to the United States and the countries of Europe are first very low and second very unstable. Also artificial barriers against our technology production are being raised here.

"In this situation the great increase in our trade with China, India, and the Arab countries is spreading to many of our enterprises. These are countries that are able to pay, they are a natural market for our goods, and they also have precisely the goods that interest us," said Ulyukayev, who also rejected the notion that Russia has changed its strategy.

"We are still oriented toward the West, because we are not only interested in markets, but also in loans and technology."

The Russian Government has promised the IMF that the state budget deficit will be 5 percent at most by the end of the year.

However, in the last few months the deficit has grown steadily in the wake of the concessions the government has made to various interest groups. However, Aleksey Ulyukayev is optimistic.

"In August the budget deficit will be over 10 percent, and it will probably remain the same for the rest of the year. The total deficit for 1992 will be 8 to 9 percent. That is more than what we agreed with the IMF, but it is my impression that the experts in the IMF have begun to understand a little that the real world in which we have to act is full of contradictions," Ulyukayev said.

Another prominent Russian economist, Stanislav Shatalin, author of the first Soviet economic reform program "500 Days," yesterday told INTERFAX that Russia could not bring its budget deficit down to zero.

"It is an illusion to believe that Russia could achieve a budget without a deficit or bring it down to 5 percent," Shatalin said.

It caused a stir in the radical reformist wing of the Russian Government, when the new Central Bank director proposed a month ago that Russian enterprises' debts to each other should be cancelled.

Anatoliy Chubays, deputy prime minister and the man responsible for the state's privatization program, said immediately that the Central Bank director's initiative was an attempt to ambush the government's privatization plans. However, now top adviser Aleksey Ulyukayev says that there will be a large-scale restructuring of the debts of enterprises over the next few weeks.

Ulyukayev also fears that inadequate bankruptcy legislation will save enterprises that cannot survive in a market economy.

"We are about to start finding out which enterprises should have their debts restructured. There is a difference between having assets of 800 million rubles [R] and debts of 200 million, and the opposite situation of having R200 million and debts of 800 million.

"In the latter case bankruptcy legislation must of course be used. In the case of other enterprises there will be a gradual remittance of debts and smaller credits for repayment," Ulyukayev said, adding:

"But the problem is not that a mass of enterprises will fail. It is more a case of the opposite—that too few enterprises will be declared bankrupt. We have only one presidential decree on bankruptcy to follow, as long as no legislation is adopted by parliament. This complicates the legal process. Enterprises can turn to the courts and have an application for bankruptcy annulled, because the necessary legal base does not exist."

Diplomatic sources in Moscow have told BERLINGSKE TIDENDE that the decisive power struggle between the government and the influential body of directors led by Arkadiy Volskiy is playing itself out around bankruptcy legislation. At present the directors corps has an overwhelming majority in the parliament.

Ulyukayev does not rule out the possibility that the government could be forced to give in to pressure from the industry lobby.

"We will do many things that go against our liberal economic principles. We are, however, forced to take account of the interests that are at stake. As long as there is talk of compromises we can live with. On the other hand there is also a limit to what we will agree to. This applies to a reintroduction of regulated prices, for example."

Regional, Business Leaders Urge Deeper Reform

PM0109113192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko "commentary": "Reform Has Cut Deep"]

[Text] This is the main conclusion that the participants made at a working conference held in Moscow under Vice Premier Valeriy Makharadze's chairmanship. The discussion that unfolded at the conference involved leaders of Russian Federation constituent republics, heads of kray and oblast administrations, state enterprise directors, private entrepreneurs, and private farmers. Vice Premiers Boris Saltykov, Anatoliy Chubays, and Aleksandr Shokhin, Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk, and leaders of other ministries and departments made reports on various areas of economic reform.

"This meeting's aim," Ibrahim Abdrakhmanov, chief of the Russian Federation Government Regional Policy Department, told a ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, "is to check the course we are taking against an assessment of the situation in the provinces, to listen to proposals from those directly carrying out government decisions.

"Progress at the conference has shown that the program to deepen the economic reforms that the government has proposed has found support among the people. A large group of private entrepreneurs totaling some 550,000 people has emerged in the country. And they are working in various regions from Chukotka to the Baltic Sea. An important detail here is that the attitude of directors as a body to private capital is beginning to change. Examples of this are the leaders of Saratov Aviation Plant and the Novgorod "Spektr" plant, who were the first in the sector not only to go over to selling shares in their enterprises but to create a network of private firms around themselves.

But it was not only positive examples that were to be heard in the government conference hall. On the contrary, the administration heads, businessmen, and private farmers talked more about the problems restricting movement on the reform path. An observation was made that there is a gulf between the president's decrees that are being adopted, the government's resolutions, and their detailed elaboration in the ministries' instructions and interpretations. As a result good initiatives by the country's leadership are disappearing without a trace.

The administration heads in turn also turned attention to their problem: In accordance with a Congress of People's Deputies decision, the expiry date for their authority has been set at the year's end. Today, now that the reform has cut deep and energetic action is needed, the local authorities feel themselves to be temporary, and they find it difficult to gear their actions to the future.

Nevertheless the majority of regional representatives who spoke at the conference came to the conclusion that the Russian Government has acquired a large enough degree of experience to implement the program to deepen the reform. This conclusion will surely give the government a lot of confidence. At least, Yegor Gaydar, who put in a word at the conference's end, noted: The government can set itself the task of broad, systematic implementation of the reforms along a wide front, that is first and foremost in the Russian provinces. The acting head of government also pointed out the necessity of consolidating the status of the administration heads, and described the privatization of state property as one of our most urgent tasks, which cannot be resolved without difficulties and conflicts.

A series of recommendations was adopted at the conference, including, for example, plans to draw up regional privatization programs in the space of a month, a draft Law "On Equalizing Conditions for Economic Activity," and other proposals on supporting private business.

Government Orders Reassessment of Assets

LD2808135292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Following a Russian Government decision, by 1 October all enterprises and organizations in the republic, regardless of the form of ownership, must reassessment their assets as they stood on 1 July this year. According to preliminary estimations by the State Statistics Commission [Goskomstat], this will increase the nominal value of Russian assets 20-fold.

Unemployment Triples in First 6 Months of Year

LD0109225892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] According to the Russian Federation Federal Employment Service, we had 62,000 people unemployed at the end of last year. However, their numbers more than tripled during the first six months of this year. Andrey Grinberg, administration chief of the capital's department for labor and employment, told the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper about how things are with this problem in Moscow. According to him, more than 100,000 people came to the department for job placement during the year and only one-fifth of these gained unemployed status. This indicator will grow, the administration chief maintains, especially among those with higher education.

Government Predicts Price Rises on Basic Goods

OW0109200092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX learned from informational sources that the Russian State Price Committee has prepared a forecast of price increases on basic food products before the end of the year. The forecast did not take into consideration an increase in energy prices.

Taking into account continuing price liberalizations, the committee predicts that by year's end the average retail price of wheat bread may reach 37 rubles, ten eggs will cost 50-62 rubles, 3.5% milk will cost 15-19 rubles, and a kilogram of beef will cost 160-220 rubles.

The report also foresees that rates on passenger air transport will be liberated by the end of the year. Railway transport rates are expected to rise but remain regulated.

The committee believes that energy prices must be increased, but stipulates a compensation of expenses on fuel used for agriculture and for many auto transport enterprises.

Food Prices Rising at 2 Percent Weekly

PM0109084592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by V. Lenskiy and M. Novogrudskiy]

[Text] [Lenskiy] Experts at the Russian Ministry of the Economy estimate that the goods and foodstuffs we bought in August were on average 10 percent more expensive than in July. The average rate of price growth is currently 2 percent a week. The Ministry of the Economy believes that this rate will not increase in the next few months—provided, of course, that energy prices are not allowed to float. But, even then, prices of industrial goods, foodstuffs, and services would only surge two or three months after oil and gas prices went up.

Coal Miners Win Pay Raise

LD0109212192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 1 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian authorities announced today that after six rounds of talks a pay rise for coal miners has been agreed upon. Their rates will be more than doubled.

Central Bank Admits Error in Shipments to CIS

LD0109200992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—The Central Bank of Russia exceeded the limits of its authority when it instructed Russian enterprises to curb shipments to Commonwealth states because of their debts to Russia, a senior banker admitted on Tuesday.

"We did not take into account the commitments of the Commonwealth members and tried to protect only our (Russian) interests", Chief Administrator of the bank Sergey Panov told TASS.

A corresponding telegramme sent to Russian enterprises in June was cancelled, he added. "The bank is to engage in settlements, credits and not in shipments of goods", Panov said.

The decision of the new leadership of the bank to cancel the instruction is "correct and balanced", according to him. At present everything is in correspondence to reality, Panov said, adding "the wrong decision of the former leadership of the bank would hardly result in serious consequences".

Copper Deposit Up for International Tender

PM0209133392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Mikhail Berger report: "Russia's Largest Copper Deposit Put Up for International Auction"]

[Text] The right to develop the world's largest copper deposit, situated 650 km northwest of Chita, has been put up for international tender.

It is well known that during his Munich meeting with the G-7 heads of state, President Boris Yeltsin spoke of the need to reschedule Russia's external debt. By way of a most reliable guarantee for loan repayment, the Russian side spoke of offering to foreign companies the rights to develop mineral wealth deposits on mutually advantageous terms. It is to be assumed that the announcement of an international tender for the right to elaborate a technical and economic feasibility study on the development of the Udokan copper deposit is a major step in this direction.

More than 20 foreign firms have expressed interest in tendering. Invitations have also been sent to nine of Russia's largest enterprises ("Norilskiy Nikel," Uralelektromed," "Roselprom," the "Menatep" Financial Association, and others). Of course, the list still remains open to both domestic and foreign contestants.

I learned at the Committee for Geology and Mineral Wealth Utilization (Rosgeolkom) that the Udokan deposit was discovered back in 1949. But due to its location in a mountainous region where the natural conditions are hard and almost polar, and to the fact that its development would require really major investments, the deposit has remained untouched to this day. The reserves of cupriferous sandstone are estimated at 1.2 billion tonnes, with a total copper content of about 18 million tonnes. One of the deposit's advantages is the fact that the nearest railroad station—the famous Chara on the Baykal-Amur Main Railroad—is only 23 km away.

As regards the criteria for determining the winner, Rosgeolkom Deputy Chairman Boris Yatskevich, who is also deputy chairman of the Udokan Tender Committee, believes that Russia's interests would be best served by converting the raw material into end product, in other words by the smelting and sale of copper. Thus, the Tender Committee would be most attracted by projects actually geared to this. Moreover, it is planned to set really tough ecological demands. Contestants would boost their chances of success by basing their projects on the utilization of Russian technology and attracting the machine building potential of Siberia's defense industry enterprises. Furthermore, the Tender Committee will certainly take into account the interests of Chita Oblast's development; the oblast's representatives are on the committee, and the committee itself has been approved not only by government departments but also by the oblast administration.

This fact is of fundamental importance, bearing in mind that the events surrounding the international tender for the right to develop Sakhalin's oil deposit, when the main struggle was waged not between the contestants but between the competition's organizers, should have—and evidently have—taught us a lot.

According to Yuriy Proshin, responsible secretary of the Tender Committee, the guideline amount of investment necessary to develop the deposit is estimated at $1 billion, and the time required to reach planned capacity—at seven or eight years. The deposit's development is important not only as an opportunity to attract foreign capital and as a promising source of foreign currency earnings. Following the USSR's collapse, many of the largest copper ore and copper sources are now outside Russia, and therefore Udokan is perceived as the largest future supplier of copper for the country's internal needs.

The competition organizers believe that this will be the first tender to be conducted strictly in accordance with

international rules. The famous investment bank "Goldman Sachs" has been appointed consultant to the Tender Committee.

The Udokan deposit is only the first on a list of mineral wealth deposits that could be put up for international auction. Geological information was recently presented on the still unexplored oil deposits in Magadan Oblast and Chukotka, with 17 Western companies expressing interest. True enough, in this case the presentation was organized by local authorities in conjunction with Rosgeolkom, and a decision by the Interdepartmental Tender Commission is required before the deposits are put up for international auction. Thus, the "dual keys" rule is observed—taking both federal and local interests into account.

And so, Russia seems to be taking the path of actively attracting foreign capital in the development of mineral wealth deposits, which today make up the most competitive component of our national wealth. Here it is important to observe a very simple principle, which is very hard to apply in practice: Do not sell at a give-away price, but do not drive too hard a bargain and thus totally paralyze the intended work.

Government To Clamp Down on Illegal Oil Exports

LD0109202592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—Nearly one million tonnes of oil were illegally exported abroad from Tyumen region in Siberia in the first three months of the year, according to an analysis of the Commission on Financial and Legal Control and Anti-Corruption Fight at the Chairman of the Russian Government.

The commission received reports that "stolen Russian oil" appears now and then all over the world, Yegor Gaydar ordered to check the information, Chairman of the Commission Mikhail Gurtovoy told TASS on Tuesday.

Various methods are invented to hide oil for future export. "Stolen" fuel was discovered stored in old pipelines, he disclosed.

U.S private detective companies helped to find out that many Russian leaders of oil industry have hard currency accounts abroad, mainly in Houston (USA), which, according to Gurtovoy, becomes a "centre of oil machinations". Money earned by illegal oil exports is also deposited in the "Deutsche Bank", he added.

Investigators are dealing with the "mysteries of the Russian oil" in Tyumen, Moscow, the United States and Europe. They are "digging a tunnel from the West to the East. It is hardly possible to say that the tunnel has been completed, but all the participants are sure they are digging in the right direction", Gurtovoy said.

A number of joint ventures in Russia caused special interest of the commission. The one with a poetic name of "White Nights" will be checked soon. Commission members believe its activities "contradict the interests of the development of oil and gas industry in Tyumen".

The "Tyumen" joint stock society is also in the focus of the commission's work. Information shows that it illegally got money from the state budget and finances of the former Soviet Communist Party were invested into it. Machinations with invested shares allowed the president of the company to earn 1.5 million roubles.

Tyumen region is not the only one where oil crime flourishes. Illegal exports of oil were exposed in Tatarstan and Bashkortostan. Oil is mostly exported through Kaliningrad, a Russian enclave on the Baltic Sea. Illegal exports to Ukraine and other CIS states were also reported, according to Gurtovoy.

All participants in foreign economic cooperation will be re-registered according to a presidential decree on trade in strategic raw materials, which include oil. The new registration should be used also to cut short possible machinations with oil, Gurtovoy said.

The chairman of the commission does not exclude a possibility that "oil kings" will flee to the West to escape punishment and added that Interpol and international agreements are to help fight the "dirty" money. It would be hard to get the money back, however it is possible to freeze bank accounts. Besides, the "oil kings" can correct their "mistake" and recall the money back themselves," he proposed.

Gurtovoy added that he is confident that order will be restored in oil industry and the activities of oil mafia which are detrimental to the Russian economy will be cut short.

Trade Union Official on New Organization

OW0209064392 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Studio interview with Captain Third Rank Mikhail Kolychev, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Independent Trade Union of Servicemen of Russia, by Sergey Goryachev; date not given; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Goryachev] For the first time in the history of the Russian Armed Forces there is an independent trade union of servicemen in Russia. How this trade union is working and whether or not it is needed by the Russian Armed Forces is the topic of our meeting and conversation with Captain Third Rank Mikhail Kolychev, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Independent Union. Good morning Mikhail.

[Kolychev] Good morning.

[Goryachev] Tell us please, how many people are there in your trade union?

[Kolychev] Presently there are more than 27,000 people—actually, 27,424 as of today.

[Goryachev] That is quite accurate.

[Kolychev] Prospects for membership are good.

[Goryachev] I will have more questions for you after we take a look at this clip about servicemen. Our correspondents visited Sevastopol, where they took a look at what concerns the parents, grandmothers, and grandfathers of servicemen the most—how their sons and grandsons are serving there.

[Begin recording] [Plotnikov] It is hot in Sevastopol today. It is hot in the literal sense—the temperature has reached 30 to 32 degrees; however the political weather is quite moderate, particularly since Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk met in Yalta. They agreed to establish two fleets in the Black Sea, the Russian and Ukrainian fleets, and then determined the transition period. As could be expected, the people of Sevastopol and the sailors were not of one mind over these agreements, but most often we heard comments similar to the following: [video shows Plotnikov interviewing two young marines]

What branch of the service are you in?

[First marine] We are marines. We are in a combat engineering battalion subordinate to the naval engineering service.

[Plotnikov] Have you been in the service for a long time?

[Second marine] I have been in for a year.

[First marine] I am almost ready to go home. I will go home in the autumn.

[Plotnikov] Well, the two presidents agreed about the fate of the fleet, at least temporarily. What do you think about this?

[First marine] Well, I swore my oath to the Union, when there was a Union. It is a (?strange) situation. There should be one commander of the fleet.

[Plotnikov] Of the fleet?

[First marine] As I said, there should be one fleet commander. There should not be a Ukrainian or Russian fleet. The fleet should remain the way it was.

[Plotnikov] What about you?

[Second marine] I swore loyalty to the CIS. We were offered a choice of pledging loyalty to the Ukraine or to Russia. I am from the Southern Urals region so I swore loyalty to Russia. About my attitude to the agreements, well, it does not solve all the problems. I think it is nonsense for the ships to sail under two flags, the Russian and Ukrainian flags. The world has never seen such a fleet in all of history.

[Plotnikov] Would it be practical? What do you think?

[Second marine] You mean to sail under two flags?

[Plotnikov] Yes, for some period of time, at least.

[Second marine] Well, the decision has been postponed until 1995. What can I say? I think that the simpler decision would be to sail under the flag of St. Andrew. After all, this was the flag that both the Ukrainians and Russians sailed under previously. It is a flag that would unite everyone.

[Plotnikov] You are from the Urals. What about you?

[First marine] I am from Odessa.

[Plotnikov] You are a Ukrainian. What fleet would you prefer to serve in?

[First marine] What do you mean which fleet?

[Plotnikov] Well, there will be two.

[First marine] I would like to continue serving all the people like I did before.

[Plotnikov] Tell me honestly, is there any dissension among your crew over the fact that there is dissension concerning the fleet issue? I mean between you and your friends?

[First marine] No, generally there is none. We have not even heard anything of the sort. Of course, some say they want to serve the Ukraine while others want to serve Russia, but I think it would be best to serve all the people.

[Plotnikov] At least there are no conflicts among the servicemen themselves.

[First and second marines, in unison] No, there are not any conflicts.

[Plotnikov] Thank you. I wish you success in your service.

[First and second marines in unison] Thank you very much. [end recording]

[Goryachev] That was a report from Sevastopol. We will continue with the topic of the armed forces in the broader sense. We are talking to Mikhail Kolychev, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Independent Trade Union of Servicemen of Russia. Mikhail, it appears that there are no conflicts in the Army. So, why do you need this trade union? Who do you plan to defend servicemen from with the help of this trade union? Or is this the wrong way to look at it?

[Kolychev] Why, I think this is very much the correct way to look at it. The fact of the matter is that there are

some 90 public organizations or servicemen's associations today in the Armed Forces. So it would appear that regular servicemen and reserve and retired officers are forced to unite in various organizations because of circumstances. Apparently their social and daily needs are not being met at the state level. In connection with this the independent trade union of servicemen was established at the initiative of the grass roots levels. It was founded on 17 January this year. We are a completely legitimate organization and we were registered with the Russian Ministry of Justice on 18 February. So the trade union has been operating since January, there have been practical results and much has already been done to realize our plans.

[Goryachev] Just a second, Mikhail. Take a specific situation. A commander issues an order and you say: The trade union has decided that we cannot do this, that we should not do it.

[Kolychev] Well no, this could...

[Goryachev interrupting] Just how can there be a trade union in the Army? I think they are simply incompatible.

[Kolychev] This could not happen. First of all we were not formed as a structure of the Armed Forces. In their off duty time officers are allowed to unite in public organizations that are not political in nature. We are a nonpolitical organization.

[Goryachev] So when you are on duty it would seem that you are not a member of the trade union and you become a member of the trade union only when you get home.

[Kolychev] You work in the trade union organization only after you end your service duties. On duty everybody must fulfill their service duties. In this regard I understand your question. One-man command and the trade union do not contradict one another. Generally all orders must be fulfilled. After all, the foundations of military service are based on this. However, if a commander's orders or actions are unlawful, then a serviceman has the right to appeal to the trade union organization. In accordance with the serviceman's appeal, it can approach the judicial or procuracy organs to see that justice is done in such a situation.

[Goryachev] Tell us, what was the attitude of the Army command to the establishment of this kind of trade union? Not very positive, I suppose?

[Kolychev] Of course not, it was not very positive. We have felt the pressure of the Ministry of Defense ourselves. However, legally they cannot ban us insofar as we are registered at the Ministry of Justice and the organization is quite legal.

The Ministry of Defense chose another course and it exerted pressure on members of the executive committee, on members of trade union organizations, and on secretaries of primary trade union organizations individually— even to the extent of proposing that either we remove our insignia of rank and work in the trade unions, or leave the trade union and continue in the service. Unfortunately this situation...

[Goryachev interrupting] Well, sailors are a tough lot. You do not respond too much to pressure. But what have you already achieved in the trade union? Are there any specific results of your work?

[Kolychev] In the past six months, working voluntarily, we have developed seven programs, some of which we have turned over to government organs. For example the program on farming has been turned over to the office of Vice President Rutskoy.

[Goryachev] Is it really the military's business to engage in farming and to develop programs on farming? It seems to me to be the business of other people.

[Kolychev] Yes, but if a serviceman retiring into the reserve wants to do this, why not? Now, because of this program, or rather the housing program, we have now found an American organization that is prepared to finance the construction of about 450 houses for servicemen. Every family will be allocated $10,000. We have agreed with the administration of Lipetsk Oblast on the allocation of land, and this year we will already begin the construction of the (?first 10).

[Goryachev] Now to (?come to terms) with the American sponsors, did you have to form a trade union first?

[Kolychev] It was not essential. We act as a public organization defending the interests of servicemen, not as private individuals. In principle, this is profitable for the state at a time when social tensions among servicemen and the disorder in their day-to-day existence have reached their limits. So now 450 families will be provided with quite decent housing without any capital investment from state organizations.

[Goryachev] Are there any membership dues in your trade union?

[Kolychev] Yes, but they all go toward the needs of the primary trade union organizations. They are not transferred to any central organs.

[Goryachev] Can a civilian become a member of your Independent Trade Union of Servicemen of Russia?

[Kolychev] According to our charter, cadre servicemen, including officers, warrant officers, ensigns, and servicemen serving under contract, as well as officers who have been separated into the reserve or who have retired, can be members of the trade union organization.

[Goryachev] Until recently, trade unions that were meant to defend people, or to defend the working people, did not in fact do anything or defend anyone. Now, after perestroyka and all the changes in trade unions, they have suddenly rushed to make up for what they did not do over many decades when they simply served as a CPSU tool. Don't you think that now too much

emphasis is being placed on trade unions, that their significance and role are being overestimated?

[Kolychev] You know I cannot assess the country's entire trade union movement, the civilian unions. Our organization is very specific. We understand that we are military people. Take an example, what can a serviceman do if he is in a remote garrison where the commander, a one-man boss who holds all the power, transgresses the law?

[Goryachev] Well, now he can turn to the Independent Trade Union of Servicemen of Russia, which, for the first time...

[Kolychev interrupting] Yes, and the trade union will know how to defend him.

[Goryachev] ... for the first time in the history of the Armed Forces of Russia. Thank you very much Captain Third Rank Mikhail Kolychev, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Independent Trade Union of Servicemen of Russia, for coming to the Utro program and talking about your organization.

[Kolychev] Thank you.

Yeltsin Authorizes Kremlin Restoration Program

LD0109204492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1807 GMT 01 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marya Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Sep (TASS)— President Boris Yeltsin has signed an instruction on the restoration and repairs of governmental buildings in Moscow Kremlin in order to provide for the integrity of the unique Moscow Kremlin architectural ensemble.

The restoration of the Kremlin buildings is part of the presidential efforts to restore the Russian statehood and its symbols.

Despite the current complicated economic situation in Russia, money has been allocated for the restoration, said the Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov. A restoration commission includes renown Russian architects and builders.

The entrance to Moscow Kremlin will possibly cost ten roubles in October, 1992, as the proceeds will be used to restore the Kremlin walls and towers, Deputy Moscow Kremlin Commandant Yuriy Krapivin told ITAR-TASS.

In the words of Krapivin, no additional payment will be needed to visit the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, the Armory and the Diamond Fund. On Thursday there will be no admission to Kremlin since that is the territory cleaning day.

Agricultural Issues

Over 64 Million Tonnes Grain Harvested

LD2808201792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] In Russia, grain has been taken in on more than a half of the sown area. The Government Statistics Committee says that despite the very dry summer, the farmers have grown a rather good harvest in many regions. On the whole, 64 million tonnes of grain has already been harvested in the country but only 12 million have so far been sold to the Federal Fund. However, now that government purchasing prices of wheat and other grain have been increased substantially, the farmers are selling more grain to the government. The farmers in the Bryansk, Orel, Smolesnk and certain other regions, have fully met their contract obligations.

Agriculture, Industry Unions Urge Policy Change

OW2808213192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of 28 major agriculture and industry union organisations have appealed to the government to hold a large session on examining the situation with regard to the agricultural sector and developing a structure for mutual activity with enterprises which come under the Union. In a letter to acting Head of Cabinet Yegor Gaydar on Thursday [27 August] the leaders of the organisations stated that the government's investment, taxation, cost and financial credit policy does not cater for the interests of agricultural producers. The authors of the letter expressed their deep concern over the economic and social situation which has arisen in the agrarian sector.

The Agriculture and Industry Union's members propose the creation of an efficient, permanent structure for mutual activity of the state organs with the producers which would be able to devise realistic and far more accurate resolutions to the needs of the countryside, thus accelerating the country's transition to the market economy as a whole.

Media Issues

Defense Ministry Backs New News Agency

PM0109123392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Aug 92 p 2

[Leonid Chausov report: "MARS News"]

[Text] A new agency called MARS [expansion unknown] has appeared in the realm of news sources. Its founders include RIA NOVOSTI, the Russian Defense Ministry Committee for Social Provision for Servicemen and Members of Their Families, and the agency collective.

Ordinance Issued on IZVESTIYA Complex

PM0109110592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Ordinance of A. Chubays, Russian Federation State Property Committee chairman, on forming an IZVESTIYA newspaper-publishing complex, dated 29 August: "Government Has Formed Newspaper-Publishing Complex"—followed by editorial comment]

[Text] In execution of the Russian Federation president's ordinance "On the Property of the 'IZVESTIYA of the Soviets of USSR People's Deputies' Publishing Complex" recorded as No. 443-RP of 22 August 1992, and with a view to using federal property in the most effective way, the Russian Federation State Property Committee resolves:

1. To take cognizance that the IZVESTIYA concern and the founder of the IZVESTIYA Editorial Office Limited Liability Partnership will be informed of the said enterprises' liquidation.

2. To form an IZVESTIYA state newspaper-publishing complex, which is the successor to "IZVESTIYA of the Soviets of USSR People's Deputies" publishing house. To include within the complex the newspaper IZVESTIYA's editorial office, its supplements' editorial offices, and its publishing house, including the printing plant, and the publishing house's other structures.

3. To charge Igor Nestorovich Golembiovskiy with the duties of general director of the IZVESTIYA newspaper-publishing complex until such time as a contract is concluded with him in accordance with current legislation.

4. To confirm, as part of bringing the registration documents into line with current legislation, a temporary Charter for the IZVESTIYA newspaper-publishing complex, which will operate for the period during which the permanent charter is being drawn up and until it is confirmed according to established procedure.

[Signed] A. Chubays, chairman of the Russian Federation State Property Committee, 27 August 1992.

Editorial Comment: The State Property Committee's ordinance is finally putting an end to the protracted "investigation" into IZVESTIYA. What should have happened has happened: The IZVESTIYA journalists, our printing plant workers, and the IZVESTIYA publishing house workers have worked and will continue to work together.

A few words about the newspaper. As the attentive reader has no doubt noted, neither the Russian Federation president's order nor that of the State Property Committee chairman mentions its status at all, which is understandable. The adopted decisions concern questions of the structure and property of the whole IZVESTIYA newspaper-publishing complex. The newspaper's status remains unchanged—we have put out and will continue to put out an independent IZVESTIYA, addressing it to our readers both in the Russian Federation as well as in other independent Commonwealth states.

Debt Said To Be Reason for Not Printing Paper

PM0209095192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Sep 92 p 1

[Letter from V. Leontyev, director of the "Pressa" Publishing House: "I Should Like To Make It Clear"]

[Text] We pulled out all the stops (to use the expression of Yu. Makartsev, first deputy chief editor of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA) and paid what we owed to the "Pressa" Publishing House. That is what is claimed in a Viktor Kozhemyako report carried in the 29 August issue of PRAVDA under the title "RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA Without a Platform."

You, Viktor Stefanovich, an old PRAVDA hand, were wrong not to have checked with the publishing house the reason for RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA's nonappearance. That one-sided report constituted an untruth.

The editorial office's financial position is difficult. Its debt to the publishing house as of 1 June this year was 834,000 rubles [R]. In such a situation you have daily to find the funds to publish the newspaper. The editorial collegium has failed to do this to date. As a result revenue was always less than actual expenditures. Nevertheless the publishing house continued printing the newspaper while we had our own funds. On 25 August these ran out, and the editorial office's debt, in light of R1.5 million in future receipts and the debt for leasing the premises and the advance given for the month of September in accordance with the contract, stood at R1.927 million.

Did the newspaper really believe that the director of the publishing house could fail to return calls and would hide from an editorial office representative and thus devote one-quarter of its report to this. I spoke with deputy chief editors of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA by telephone three times, while on the fourth occasion I was absent for just a minute (my first deputy was also on the spot).

And one more untruth: Agreement with the Ministry of the Press and the Mass Media was not adduced as an argument in refusing to publish the next issue of the paper for Yuriy Makartsev. The publishing house's real and utter lack of money and the impossibility of continuing to work in debt are the sole reason for its nonappearance.

[Signed] V. Leontyev, director of the "Pressa" Publishing House.

Miscellaneous Issues

Level of Crime Increases During 1992

LD0109204992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 01 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS crime press correspondent Yuriy Soltys]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Sep (TASS)—In the seven months of 1992 crime in Russia has risen by one third as compared with the same period of the last year. About 1.3 million of crimes were recorded only by criminal investigation department of Russia. There have never been such big figures before.

The first results of activities of the criminal police from the beginning of this year were announced today at a briefing organized by the ministry of internal affairs of the Russian Federation.

The number of murders, murderous attacks and misappropriation of firearms and ammunition is rising. Now the Interior Ministry bodies are hunting for over 8,000 units of weapons, including 135 light machine-guns, about 700 submachine-guns, 500 rifles and 4,000 pistols. While the stolen weapons are being searched for, they are firing shots. This year over 4,000 crimes were committed with the use of these weapons, which is 64 per cent more than the last year's figure.

Such a grave criminal situation is considerably increasing a load on policemen. This year they solved 29 per cent more crimes than in 1991. The police exposed over 700 armed gangs about 3,000-strong, 2,000 organized criminal groups and arrested 2,000 dangerous criminals.

However, the percentage of crimes solved by the criminal police still remains very low—only 40 per cent. Organizers of the briefing pointed out that there is real hope that this figure will be increasing.

Ministry: Cities Clamp Down on Drug Trade

OW0109202492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian drugs trade is now fully developed and expanding, according to the deputy director of the Interior Ministry's anti-narcotics squad, Arkadiy Kuznetsov, who was speaking at a Moscow briefing. He said that all major Russian cities are fighting organised crime relating to drug dealing, but with varying degrees of success.

Experts estimate that drug dealers rake in around 8 bn. [billion] rubles every year. The most influential and dangerous gangs are from Azerbaijan and Chechnya along with the gypsy element.

A marked trend towards forming inter-regional groups has been evident recently, and since they were formed within the framework of the former USSR, attempts are being made to move on to the international market. Kuznetsov informed that emissaries from the Medellin cartel, which is led by the notorious drugs baron, Pablo Escobar, recently came to Russia. However, their cover was blown and their stay in Russia was monitored by the Interior Ministry.

Kuznetsov stated that the potential for Russia's drugs producers exceeded that of the "Golden Triangle" and "Golden Half Moon". The Russian drugs trade would "simply swamp Europe with plant-based drugs". 784 drugs trading groups have been uncovered this year, and 47 underground laboratories have been discovered. 6 tons of narcotics were seized in connection with this and valuables and money worth 4.5 mn. [million] rubles were confiscated.

Supreme Soviet

Body Sees 'Guerrilla War' if Kurils Handed Over

MK2708144092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Aug 92 p 2

[Tatyana Malkina report under the general heading "Russian Supreme Soviet": "Parliament 'Recommends That the President Limit Himself' Although the Parliamentarians Know Nothing About Yeltsin's 'Kuril Options'"]

[Text] Yesterday, the Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations again discussed the question of Russian-Japanese relations. As a result of the session, held under the leadership of Iona Andronov (in view of Yevgeniy Ambartsumov's absence from Moscow), the Committee adopted a decision which, "with due account of the domestic political situation and Russia's position in the world, recommends that the president acknowledge the existence of unresolved problems in Russian-Japanese relations during his trip to Japan..." and also "that he make known Russia's readiness to search for their constructive solution on the basis of agreements reached earlier, with due account of Russia's national interests in the Asian-Pacific region."

Furthermore, the document states that in today's conditions "unilateral recognition of Japan's sovereignty in any form over any part of Russian territory would be extremely dangerous."

Reproaching the president with failing to share with his parliamentarians the secret of the "12 options" for resolving the territorial problems of the Kurils, Iona Andronov stated that if Russia were to yield "we would immediately be overwhelmed by other claimants to Russian territory, of which there are quite a few."

Sergey Mikhaylov, another committee deputy chairman, asserts that two-thirds of the population of the Kurils

and Sakhalin are against any kind of territorial concessions to Japan (according to the figures from an opinion poll), and around 25 percent of the Kuril population "will flee to the hills and start a guerrilla war if Russia surrenders the islands to the Japanese side..."

Committee Chairman Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, being in London in body, remained in the White House in spirit and made his own contribution to the overall preparations for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan. Abartsumov sent his colleagues a telegram—the essence of which was reflected in the aforementioned document—containing two basic arguments: The people will not accept the idea of territorial changes, and the Supreme Soviet will not ratify the relevant agreements.

Bill on International Accords Drafted

LD3108155492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—"A bill 'on the procedure for concluding, executing and denouncing international agreements, concluded by the Russian Federation' is being drawn up by the Russian parliament," member of the parliamentary international affairs committee Aleksey Surkov told ITAR-TASS. He said the need for such a law was dictated by the fact that Russia had acquired independence. Hence, the perpetuation of a similar USSR law was out of the question. Independent Russia now has a presidential structure and, in accordance with amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the head of state is entitled to conclude international treaties, subject to parliamentary ratification.

According to Surkov, "the parliament's conservative majority opposed the adoption of a new constitution". Therefore, he and his colleagues plan to propose corresponding amendments to the Constitution at the next Congress of People's Deputies. In light of this, Surkov criticised the official draft of the new constitution, which lists the treaties and agreements that are to be ratified by the Supreme Soviet.

The authors of the bill move to vest ministers with the right to draw up and conclude treaties and agreements. "It is an open secret," Surkov noted, "that some officials have recently made statements abroad that shocked our partners. The law must clearly define corresponding powers".

Commission Moves To Replace Passport System

LD0109203592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 01 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, Sep (TASS)—The Russian Federation intends to refuse from using a passport system and replace the current Russian passports with identification cards of a citizen of the Russian Federation.

A parliamentary working commission has completed the elaboration of three draft laws aiming at the soonest fulfilment of the law "on citizenship of the Russian Federation," chairman of the subcommittee of the Russian Supreme Soviet's human rights committee Mikhail Artyunov told ITAR-TASS. The three documents will soon be passed over to the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

It has been decided to replace the passports with IDs as their production will take much less time. The deputy said it is planned to introduce identification cards in the early 1994, while the production of new passports will take from five to seven years.

The plastic IDs, whose approximate cost price is estimated at 100 roubles, will lack the state emblem image and notes on nationality, family status, crime record and alimony. They will indicate the address of the main place of residence.

In accordance with the draft law on "the right of Russian citizens to freedom of movement and choice of place of location and residence within the Russian Federation," the current residence registration is expected to be abolished.

When arriving in a populated locality, a citizen shall have to register in a house-manager's office, a hotel or a rest house. Specific regions, visits to which will be restricted by a special resolution of the Russian Supreme Soviet, are a different thing.

A draft law under elaboration envisages granting of temporary IDs to foreigners, the cost of which will be established by the term of stay. The deputy said they have not set the payment amount, which in some countries runs into 150 U.S. dollars a year.

Before the IDs are introduced, a loose leaf with a note on Russian citizenship will be glued to the first inner page of the passport cover on the wish of Russian citizens. The Gosznak [State Administration for Printing and Engraving] has begun issuing the loose leaves, about ten million of them will be issued by the end of this year.

The passport will remain for those going abroad—the average citizen passport will cost about 50 U.S dollars for those capable to pay in hard currency and 10,000 roubles for others, the service passport and the diplomatic passport.

The new passports will be introduced as soon as the issue of the new Russian emblem is settled. Equipment has been bought abroad and the Gosznak is ready to print the documents.

Rift Between Khasbulatov, Filatov Denied

LD0109211892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—The press centre of the Russian Parliament denied media reports that rifts appeared between Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and his First Deputy Sergey Filatov.

The allegations could have appeared in the press only in August which is not rich in political events, the press centre said in a statement on Tuesday.

The reports appeared after it became known that Khasbulatov had prepared a resolution which divides responsibilities among his first deputy speaker, other deputy speakers and speakers of both chambers of parliament. The "IZVESTIYA" newspaper commented that the resolution "infringes on the rights" of Filatov. The "KOMMERSANT" weekly was more plain alleging that Filatov will "be ousted from political olympus".

The press centre stressed that the resolution is an ordinary organisational issue and the sharing of responsibilities does not infringe on anyone's rights. The move became necessary after Vladimir Shumeyko, a speaker's deputy, became first deputy prime minister. Besides, Filatov has to fulfil additional work in the Russian Security Council, according to latest legislation. The resolution was prepared to even the work load on all deputies of the speaker.

The leadership of the Parliament trusts Filatov, the press centre quoted Khasbulatov as saying.

More Coordination Said Needed in Drafting Laws

LD0109165892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0941 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—"Over the past six months the president has referred back to the parliament a number of laws it has passed for the reason that they contained provisions running counter to constitutional norms or Russian laws", Robert Tsivilev, head of the Law Department of parliament, said in an interview to ITAR-TASS on Tuesday. "To avoid such cases, parliament should maintain permanent contacts with Boris Yeltsin's legal service and above all with the President's Official Representative for Juridical Affairs in the parliament, Anatoliy Sliva". Tsivilev said that the first working meeting of chiefs of the legal services of the president and the parliament of Russia will be held on September 3.

Tsivilev said that deputies and government officials may lack the knowledge of subtleties of Russian legislation which is yet imperfect. In every such case they should be assisted by jurists.

Tsivilev noted that the first working meeting of chiefs of the president's and the parliament's legal services will be followed by meetings of representatives of sectors of civil legislation and legislation on social policies. "This will make it possible to work out the joint criteria and approaches to drafting laws that are initiated by the Parliament and the president", Tsivilev said.

Regional Affairs

Gaydar Orders Aid for Flooded Southern Regions

PM0209104592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Aid for Flood-Hit Russian South"]

[Text] Acting head of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar has signed an order regarding the provision of aid to southern regions afflicted by flooding.

Stavropol Kray has been allocated an extra 568.7 million rubles [R] from the government's reserve fund. A further R30 million have been appropriated to grant extraordinary aid to the population. The Agriculture Ministry is allocating R150 million and construction materials for the needs of the kray's agro-industrial complex. The Karachayevo-Cherkess SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] has been allocated a further R200 million.

Coverage Continues on Khasbulatov's Tour

PM0109120792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Aug 92 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Minayev: "The Sober Voice of the Parliamentary Speaker"]

[Text] The three-day visit to Karelia by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov was surprisingly quiet and businesslike, unlike the recent visit by the Russian president, when thousands of people were mustered for a mass rally, bells were rung, and the scene at banquet halls defied imagination.

During his meetings in the northern republic Khasbulatov spoke frankly. In his opinion, bribery, graft, and unfettered acquisitiveness were rampant at all levels of today's executive. It would seem that every world record has been beaten here; this anarchy is evidence above all else of an inability to handle state affairs.

The speaker of the Russian parliament described the excessive bias toward accepting Western aid and prompting a strategic error. As proof, he cited a statement by Lech Walesa during a recent meeting that the West had not let Poland die from hunger but that it had, on the other hand, ruined the whole of Polish industry.

"The West will not help Russia, and the mass media that is trying to railroad people into believing that we will not survive without Western aid is simply duping our fellow

citizens," Khasbulatov maintained. "Russia's fate lies in our hands. Even the prophets and advisers who our government has been listening to so closely are now stepping aside as they see the shambles. I am certain that we will not get even $1 billion."

Authorities Trying To Stop Illegal Exports

OW0109145592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the course of an operation codenamed Tral (Trawl), the Interior and Security Ministries and the customs service of Russia has in the past month prevented the illegal export from Russia of 26,000 tonnes of metal, oil products, manufactured goods, and food to an overall sum of over 2.5 billion rubles. More than 300 persons have been charged with various offenses.

The Interior Ministry's public relations center reports that the results of the operation have made it clear that "Russia now has virtually no protection from hundreds of thousands of criminals, both its own and those from other republics of the former Soviet Union, who are plundering the national wealth of the republic on a tremendous scale, usually escaping unpunished." Thus, in Chita Region alone there have been 27 instances where interior service officers stopped the illegal despatch of timber and ferrous metals to Chinese firms to an overall sum of over 50 million rubles.

In Kaliningrad Region the police cut short an attempt to send 700 tonnes of metal, six tanks of petrol, and 29 kg of amber illegally outside the region. Altogether 262 instances of theft of nonferrous metal were recorded there and 171 attempts to take it illegally out of the region; 191 persons, including 110 Lithuanian citizens, were arrested.

Similar facts have been registered in the course of the operation practically throughout Russia.

Situation in Tatarstan Worsens as Leaders Confer

PM0109153792 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 1 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Konstantin Sergeyev under the "Federation" rubric: "If Signatures Are Missing. Domestic Political Struggle in Tatarstan Heats Up"]

[Text] The three republics' joint statement on the 1992 federal budget is still reverberating within Russia's political circles. Could these three republics, in their desire for autonomy, really intend to isolate themselves from the oblasts and krays? The problem of sovereignty is more complex than it may appear at first glance, and it hardly makes sense to "survive in isolation" at a time of common economic calamities. It is no accident, as news agencies reported, that Tatarstan's Prime Minister M. Sabirov especially emphasized during his meeting with Russia's Acting Premier Ye. Gaydar in Moscow: Even though Kazan knew that the joint statement by the three republics was being prepared, the document still lacks the signature by Tatarstan's official representative.

In his turn, Ye. Gaydar spoke of the agreement according to which "Tatarstan will fully honor all commitments to Russia stemming from Russian legislation and the 1992 budget," while Russia will fully guarantee the jointly accepted procedure for financing social programs in Tatarstan.

But this nature of economic and political relations certainly does not suit everyone in Kazan. The latest National Assembly session ended a few days ago, and its participants were unsparing in their use of harsh adjectives applied to their republic's leaders. This criticism was prompted by the stance taken by Tatarstan's official leaders at the talks with Moscow. This stance was described by representatives of national-radical movements as one of "appeasement and treason," while the text of the treaty was described as "servitude."

National Assembly activists were especially incensed by the fact that they have been deprived of any formal right to monitor the government's work. This is why Assembly Member K. Shaydarov, in an interview with journalists, upheld his opinion: "Talks with Russia can be conducted only after the recognition of Tatarstan's independence, and no treaty will have any force unless it is signed by National Assembly representatives."

The session decided to embark on resolute political actions in the struggle against its republic's leadership. The list of demands that have been presented includes parliamentary elections ahead of schedule and President Shaymiyev's resignation. Possible candidates for the top office of state in Tatarstan include F. Bayramov, chairman of the "Ittifak" Party of National Independence; National Assembly Chairman T. Abdullin; and Colonel Z. Zaynullin (retired), leader of the gunmen who styles himself commander in chief of the "Tatarstan People's Army."

The National Assembly decided to form this "army," which will initially comprise 300 volunteers, in order to, in T. Abdullin's words, "push President Shaymiyev toward more decisive actions as regards the drafting of Tatarstan citizens into the Russian Army and the CIS Joint Forces." He added that his associates intend to call for a boycott of the fall draft, which is due to be implemented by local military commissariats. This thesis is explained in a statement adopted by the Assembly session: "The Russian military commissariats must cease their activity on the republic's territory, and their property and arms must be transferred to the Tatarstan People's Army."

In other words, the national-radicals are preparing in advance a bridgehead so as to back up the persuasiveness of their arguments in the political struggle by the might of armed detachments. It is perfectly obvious where such calls and feelings might lead. It is too dangerous to play

the card of interstate and interethnic dissension and conduct a dialogue in the language of ultimatums at a time when the flames of undeclared wars are already raging near Russia's borders. The heating up of the political situation in Tatarstan now causes grave alarm not only among the organs of power in the republic but also among social forces striving to preserve civil peace among its inhabitants and to maintain equal and friendly contacts with Russia on the basis of mutual respect between two sovereign states.

Chubays Examines Privatization Status on Tour

Vouchers Available 1 Oct

OW3108133892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1018 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first portion of 40 million Russian privatization vouchers will be printed by October 1, 1992. This was disclosed by the Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays, the Chairman of the RF [Russian Federation] State Property Committee at a meeting with industrial managers and administrators in the Amur region on Monday. Mr. Chubays, who is touring the Far East and Transsiberia, has revealed that the first vouchers will be made available to the regions best prepared to start privatization.

He believes that given inflation, a privatization voucher, valued at 10,000 rubles on January 1, 1992, will amount to 150-200,000 rubles once large-scale privatization has got under way.

Mr. Chubays turned down the requests and suggestions made at the meeting to grant export-import privileges to a number of Far Eastern areas, the Amur region included. He emphasized that privatization could provide far greater local budget revenues than tax benefits today.

Obstacles to Privatization

LD3108193792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1915 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Chita August 31 TASS— "The main issue of the Russian privatization programme—the regions' principled attitude to it—can be regarded as practically solved," Russian Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays told ITAR-TASS. Chubays, who heads the Russian Committee for State Property Management, is currently visiting Chita.

According to Chubays, "territories that continue to entertain doubts as regards privatisation and where debates on whether it needs to be enacted or not keep going can be countered by fingers" [as received]. At the same time, Chubays admitted that the implementation of the privatization programme encounters quite a few difficulties. In several regions, privatisation is a go-slow process because ideological dogmas retain their popularity. In some areas, the opposition between local councils and administrations, which has political and even personal roots, exerts a negative influence. Also, the personnel problem in bodies that are engaged in privatisation in provinces has not been fully handled.

The unsolved problems of Russia's federative set-up and issues of separating the powers between the centre and some of the republics also stand in the way of privatisation.

"Plans to introduce privatization cheques of its own in Tatarstan, which will have relation to the privatization of housing and possibly not only housing, are a matter of concern for us," Chubays admitted. "If such cheques appear, they may spur inflationary phenomena," he noted.

Chubays said Bashkorostan adopted the line of the Russian State Property Management Committee. It may also have its specifics but it will not mount counteraction to the programme.

The situation with privatisation in Chechniya is most complex, Chubays believes. The special stance adopted by this republic's leaders calls into question the possibility of carrying through privatization in general. According to Chubays, the Russian State Property Management Committee intends to clarify this issue shortly, defining at long last "whether we are working together or not."

The managers of territories, who do not launch privatisation in parallel with the whole of Russia for political or other motives, risk to remain in a serious position, Chubays observed. Relations with the population of their territories rather than with the Moscow government will prove most serious for them, he said. Falling behind the privatisation drive will inevitably compel people to seek clarifications from managers why the voucher's market quotation is higher in other regions and the fund of the privatised property is huger.

"One would like to hope that the managers of these regions will become aware of this very soon," Chubays said.

Urges Faster Far East Privatization

LD0209020592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2140 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 2 September—The trip by Anatoliy Chubays, Russian vice premier and chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, to Khabarovsk Kray and Amur and Chita Oblasts ended Tuesday night.

We note that privatization in remote areas of Russia is proceeding no worse than in the center, Anatoliy Chubays declared, commenting on his trip at the request of an ITAR-TASS correspondent. It was important to investigate the situation at the rayon level, he said. What is positive is the fact that people are "not frightened" by the term "privatization check" and that the work of

drawing up the voucher distribution lists is continuing. The deputy premier concluded privatization in Far Eastern and eastern Siberian rayons was under way, but it needs to be accelerated and monitored.

St. Petersburg Mayor Appeals for EC Food Aid

LD0109210792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 01 Sep 92

[By Lyudmila Fomichoyova]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 1 Sep (TASS)—"The food aid rendered by countries of the European Economic Community to St. Petersburg last winter and sold for the sum of 2.5 billion rubles, helped the city authorities to overcome difficulties and protect poor sections of the population," mayor of St. Petersburg, Anatoliy Sobchak, said at today's meeting with vice-chairman of the committee for international relations and security of the European Parliament, Fred Caterwood. "The funds earned as a result of those sales were directed for the development of farming in the region. We hope the West will understand us and take into account that Russia was developing primarily as an industrial republic, while 55 per cent of food-stuffs were coming to St. Petersburg from the Baltic Republics and Ukraine, with the rest of food being imported. If Russia does not obtain food under agreements with other neighbouring foreign countries and a large-scale aid from the European Economic Community, the present democratic power will disappear from the political arena. It may be replaced by national patriotic, communist and even fascist forces," Sobchak emphasised.

Fred Caterwood expressed confidence that the mayor's ideas about food aid to St. Petersburg will find understanding on the part of the members of the European Parliament because many issues can be easier solved on a municipal level than on a national one. The vice-chairman of the committee for international relations and security of the European Parliament invited Anatoliy Sobchak to speak on September 11 at European Parliament sittings on the conversion of defense-related industries to the civil use.

International Affairs

Ministry Denies Involvement in Karabakh Fighting

LD3108165892 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1136 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Some mass media have published a report about a plane which was shot down over Nagorno-Karabakh and whose pilot allegedly was a Ukrainian servicemen. In this connection, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has been authorized to make a statement that no servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces are taking part in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Signed] The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

Further on Merger of CIS Navy Schools

Protest Rally Waged

OW3108193892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The command and teaching staff of the Nakhimov Naval Academy, as well as representatives of the Black Sea Fleet held a rally in Sevastopol Monday to protest against the decision by the Ukrainian Defense Minister to subordinate the school to the republican Defense Ministry, and to dismiss its head, Counter-Admiral Vladimir Denisenko from his post. The Ukrainian minister ordered to transfer yet another Sevastopol Naval Engineering Academy under the Ukrainian jurisdiction. Both academies are preparing specialists for strategic armed forces.

The officers of the Nakhimov Academy described such "illegal" actions by Ukraine as a violation of the Yalta agreements on the Black Sea Fleet. The issued an appeal to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents "to decide the fate of the school in a civilized way and to find an acceptable solution corresponding with the interests of both countries and guaranteeing security to all CIS states".

Shakhray Urges Fulfillment of Order

AU0109144792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Negotiations between state delegations of Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea Fleet were held in Kiev. The sides agreed on the idea that, if the documents are signed as soon as possible, this will facilitate the achievement of the main goal of the agreement—the formation, by the end of 1995, of Ukraine's independent naval forces and of Russia's naval fleet in the Black Sea.

At the same time, confusion continues to prevail around the Black Sea Fleet. After Rear Admiral Denisenkov, chief of the Black Sea Higher Naval School Imeni Nakhimov, began to create obstacles for the Commission of the Administration for Military Education at Ukraine's Defense Ministry that worked in the school to disband it, Ukraine's Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov dismissed Denisenkov from his post. Admiral Kasatonov, Black Sea Fleet commander, issued instructions not to fulfill the order and sent to the school about 50 marine officers and also a hundred officers who did not even know why they had been sent there.

On 31 August, the complex situation that had taken shape in the school was discussed at a rally organized at the school by the coordination council of the Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assembly. On behalf of Russia's president, Russian People's Deputy Serhiy Shakhray spoke at the rally. He stated that the Nakhimov school is not a part of the Black Sea Fleet, but, in view of the fact that there is an order issued by Ukraine's defense minister on the appointment of a new chief of the school, this order must be fulfilled.

Kasatonov's Resignation Demanded

OW0209105592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1007 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Union of Ukrainian Officers demanded that Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Igor Kasatonov be removed from his post. On Wednesday [2 September], the Union circulated a statement which says that the command of the Black Sea Fleet "continues to pursue an anti-Ukrainian policy, neglecting the interstate agreements signed by Ukraine and Russia".

The statement urges the Ukrainian leaders, defence ministry and political and public organizations to "give a resolute rebuff to Admiral Kasatonov's provocative actions".

Admiral Kasatonov had not given his go-ahead for switching the Nakhimov Naval College located in Sevastopol over under Ukraine's control. He issued the order not to fulfil the Ukrainian minister's instructions and sent marines to the college.

Kravchuk Announces Upcoming IMF Membership

LD0109191792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1857 GMT 1 Sep 92

[by UKRINFORM correspondents Anatoliy Grigoryev and Viktor Demidenko—TASS]

[Text] Kiev September 1 TASS—"A document admitting Ukraine to the International Monetary Fund as a fully-fledged member will be signed in a few days," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told correspondents here today upon the completion of today's meeting with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank.

"This means we will have a possibility to directly cooperate with the organization. We will be able to raise the

question of IMF assistance in the consolidation of the Ukrainian financial and currency system," said Kravchuk.

On the same day, the representatives were received by Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin. On the visitors' request, the Ukrainian official informed them on the Ukrainian economic situation and stressed the current economic crisis is not only Ukrainian, it is characteristic of all republics of the former Soviet Union that have chosen the path of independent development.

At the same time, first signs of stability in the work of specific industrial branches have become evident, said Fokin.

He said the government has prepared a plan of specific actions and measures to deepen the Ukrainian reforms in 1992-1993.

Supreme Council Deputies Begin U.S. Visit

LD3108091992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] An official visit by a delegation of Ukrainian members of parliament to the United States started yesterday. Ten deputies with various political views make up the delegation led by Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Ukraine Supreme Council. They will take part in discussions with U.S. Congressmen on issues of democratization and the transition of Ukraine's economy to market relations.

Our people's deputies will also acquaint themselves with issues of U.S. state administration and division of power. Foreign investments in the Ukrainian economy will be discussed during a meeting with businessmen.

Visit Continues

LD0109223592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 31 Aug 92

The Ukrainian Supreme Council delegation headed by Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council, is visiting the United States by invitation of that country's Congress. Before their departure, the Ukrainian leader expressed hope that this visit will foster the further development of U.S.-Ukrainian relations and the strengthening of business contacts between the parliament of Ukraine and the U.S. Congress. Ivan Plyushch said: We are going in order to take a closer look at forms of state government, structures of government, and the powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities. It is very important to know this, Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch stressed, now that the legislative basis for developing the independent Ukraine is being created and the national discussion of the draft new constitution is under way, the results of which will be examined by the sixth session of the Supreme Council.

Paper Alleges Russian Ban on Military Spares

LD0109220692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 2034 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev, 31 Aug (UKRINFORM)—Although a number of agreements exist between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the stabilization of economic links in the defense industry, many Russian plants flatly refuse to supply repair sets for enterprises of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. This fact is assessed by the newspaper NARODNAYA ARMIYA, central organ of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, as a secret ban by officials of Russia on the supply of repair reserves to the Ukrainian Army.

The newspaper writes that in the sphere of arms production, cooperative links of Ukraine make up from 15 percent to 80 percent. More than half of the capacity of military aviation repair plants is provided by former soviet republics, in particular, by Russia. The links are now broken and many Ukrainian aviation repair plants will come to a stop. The Chugueyv aviation repair plant already has to make coats instead of repairing MiG-23 military planes. A similar situation has developed at other repair enterprises where the volume of main production has dropped by 60-80 percent. They now produce furniture, ready-made garments, ceramic blocks, and many other things in no way related to the army.

All of these problems were discussed at a meeting between leaders of the trade union organizations of aviation repair plants and Lieutenant General Ivan Oleynik, head of armaments of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and deputy defense minister. A package of proposals for getting the aviation repair plants out of the crisis has been worked out. It has been decided to change the profile of some plants, to organize the rest on cooperative lines in a maximum way, and to discuss the situation which has taken shape with representatives of Russia.

Hungarian Nuclear Waste Train Still Unsanctioned

LD0109183292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] In spite of the claims of certain Russian media, a train carrying radioactive waste from the Paks nuclear power plant has not yet left, as planned, for Chelyabinsk. Over to Fedor Lukyanov:

[Lukyanov] Despite the fact that the Russian authorities have given the go-ahead for the waste to be received, the train and its radioactive containers are unable to leave as they have not yet been sanctioned by the Ukrainian authorities. As journalists were told by Szabo, deputy director of the Hungarian nuclear plant, the nuclear train is still in Paks. All six containers of used radioactive fuel await dispatch to a protected zone until the special permission of the Ukrainian authorities is received.

According to the director, 14 tonnes of used fuel are taken from each unit of the power station every year. These initially rest in special basins for five years and are then sent to Russia for processing at the famous Mayak Combine in Chelyabinsk. The Paks plant, built with assistance from the USSR and at present, the only one in Hungary, has until now had a long-term contract with Russia's Tekhsnabexport Association for processing used fuel. The first nuclear train from Paks was, incidentally, dispatched to our country as long ago as 1989 and there have been regular runs ever since.

However, the problem is not confined to one nuclear train. The point is, as the Hungarian paper NEPSZ-BADSAG admits, that the issue of Hungarian radioactive waste already processed at the Mayak Combine has still not been resolved. Previous practice dictated that the waste remained entirely in the USSR and evidently, out of friendship, as they say, for a fairly nominal fee.

National Affairs

Union Strikes Close Airports, Other Services

LD0209111592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1030 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] All airports in Ukraine have stopped work today with the exception of Kharkov, which will stop work at 1500. Traffic has stopped at 15 major rail junctions, and 39 coal mines have closed down. This is the effect of the indefinite strike declared today by the Free Trade Unions of Ukraine. It is not supported, however, by the majority of the republic's miners, who are members of the so-called Independent Trade Unions. The strike is opposed by many rail worker and public associations of working people. A government commission is continuing talks with the leaders of the Free Trade Unions, who have been warned about being held answerable for the consequences of the strike, which is in violation of the Law on Collective Labor Disputes and Conflicts. The demands of the strikers are as before: the immediate conclusion of new tariff agreements, an increase in pay, and the granting of additional privileges.

Simonenko Holds News Conference on Economy

LD0209091792

[Editorial Report] Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian at 0500 GMT on 1 September carries a six-minute report by correspondent Vitaliy Naumenko on a news conference held by Valentin Simonenko, first vice-premier of Ukraine, in Kiev on 31 August.

Naumenko says that "the talk was mainly about the need for the timely introduction of a body such as the Coordinating Council for Economic Reform in Ukraine" and that Valentin Simonenko "made it rather clear to those present that he has both plans and programs and that they touch upon various aspects of economic reform." Simonenko said: "I know and understand those people very well, especially pensioners, the needy, invalids, who have suddenly become virtually poor," he continued, "but we must understand precisely and clearly that these problems must not be solved at the cost of inflation, at the cost of the additional issuing of money. This leads to an even greater collapse. This means that it is necessary to make enterprises work, and not to forget that these enterprises are state-run." He added: "We need to work in such a way that the state sector produces more during the transitional period than it produces now."

On the subject of the Economy Ministry of Ukraine, Simonenko said that "the thing is that the Economy Ministry cannot exist in the form that it exists today. It is not a headquarters of economic reform. It is, how can I put it, a trunk without arms, without legs, and sometimes without even a head. Therefore today we should, and we are engaged in this process, working out a completely new set of regulations on the Economy Ministry, giving it those possibilities and powers, so that it would not be just a title, but a real instrument for the implementation of economic reform."

Urges Economic Reform Revision

OW0109162992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's First Vice-Premier Valentin Simonenko urged to review the programme for economic reform, as well as methods of implementing it, and emphasized the importance of the public sector which, he said, has not tapped its resources.

Simonenko warned during a press conference on Monday that Ukrainian society is becoming increasingly aware that Ukraine needs evolutionary reforms excluding sharp drops in the population's living standards.

IF [INTERFAX] note: Valentin Simonenko, 52, replaced ex-vice-premier Vladimir Lanovoy, who preferred the Moscow version of reforms. Lanovoy was also the economics minister - the post which is still vacant. Officially, Lanovoy's resignation was motivated by the dubious situation whereby he combined an official post with membership of the opposition political movement "New Ukraine". Before his new appointment, Valentin Simonenko was the president's emissary in Odessa.

The policies pursued by the Russian government have demonstrated that an immediate transition to market relations is impossible," said Simonenko.

He urged to review the methods of implementing the reforms and accused the government of lacking "clear guidelines" and coordination in economic restructuring.

Simonenko did not say when Ukraine will switch over to the hryvnya. He noted however, that prior to it a stabilization fund must be formed and the rate of inflation slowed down.

He said that given the population's growing disillusionment, a stronger accent should be put on the public sector which should be gradually privatized.

He said that the parallel structures of economic management should be gradually replaced with a strong government which will consistently and comprehensively check on the implementation of the reform, enjoy full authority and bear the entire responsibility for the steps it makes.

Announces Privatization Accounts

LD0109205892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Text] Valentin Simonenko, Ukraine's new deputy prime minister announced at a news conference in Kiev today that as part of the economic reform program, privatization accounts in the name of each citizen for the sum of 30,000 coupons [kupony] are to be opened in savings banks as of 1 September. Simonekno noted that this process could not realistically be carried out before mid-autumn 1992. In addition, at the news conference it was stated that the inflation rate in the republic was 24-25 percent in July.

Ministry Announces Plan for Military Reform

LD0109043792 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1234 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] [no dateline as received] The military collegium of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine has held a routine session. The question of reforming the Armed Forces was considered. In accordance with the concept of defense and the Armed Forces that was confirmed by the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine and by decision of the Defense Council of Ukraine, the collegium has considered and confirmed the plan of creating south and western operative commands on the basis of the Odessa and Transcarpathian military districts respectively, as well as reforming their formations and units. The plan to create a service of the Armed Forces—air defense forces—through the gradual unification and reforming of the Air Force and the air defense has been confirmed. Commanders of services of the Armed Forces, troops of the military districts, air wings, and air defense formations took part in considering the issues.

[Signed] The press service of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine.

Kravchuk Advocates Independent Ukrainian Church

AU3108120792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Ukraine's president Leonid Kravchuk stated that he is against separatism and will not allow Ukraine to become involved in a conflict inspired by either right-wing or left-wing forces, a conflict that might strangle the young state. He was speaking in Lvov, where he visited at the invitation of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The president expressed concern about the intensification of interreligious strife in Ukraine and emphasized that he advocates that Ukraine have its own independent church that would not be controlled by another state.

Envoy to Belgium Gets Additional Appointments

AU0209110392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Volodymyr Vasylenko, Ukraine's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Belgium, will also represent our state in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and, simultaneously, in the European Community and in the NATO Cooperation Council. These powers have been given to Volodymyr Vasylenko by an edict issued by Ukraine's president.

Increased Border Violations With Romania Noted

AU0109120692 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 92 p 4

[Commentary by Mykola Horvat, Transcarpathian Region: "Swimming Across the Border"]

[Text] There are many methods one can use to visit neighboring states. Yet another method—swimming across the Tisza River—has become increasingly popular at the border between Ukraine, Hungary, and Romania.

As is known, border guards have started dismantling the so-called engineering constructions, more specifically, barbed wire, over a considerable amount of territory. This has made it possible to use land in formerly forbidden areas in a more rational way and to create recreation zones on the Tisza bank for the local population. These particular zones have become "a modern bridgehead" for violating the border.

For example, a group of boys from the village of Velykiy Bychkiy decided to obtain liquor in a Romanian bar. The seventeen year-old Ivan Shtelnyak, Todor Botnar, Ruslan Kashnurenko, and fifteen year-old Mykhaylo Moysyuk, having started on the Ukrainian bank of the Tisza River, found themselves on the Romanian bank where they were detained by the neighboring state's border guards. Ivan Mayor and Serhiy Mikulets, young residents of Tyachev, went to visit their "neighbors" in the same way.

All of them were officially returned to our representatives. The latter treated the teenagers humanely—passed them over to their parents. However, in accordance with Ukraine's current legislation, they could fine the parents (a sum ranging from five to 11 month's salary) or,

generally, transfer the case to law enforcement organs (up to three years imprisonment).

The indulgence regarding young transgressors is setting an example for the adults who have also started "playing the game" of visiting the neighboring state, like what was done by a group of residents from Vynohradovo and Berehovo rayons.

Vendors from Rakhivskiy Rayon went even further: By previous agreement with their Romanian colleagues, they are transporting goods that are in short supply across the Tisza River. They even tried to get a horse and a motorcycle across the river.

"In the past, the local population actively assisted us in finding transgressors," says Mykola Yakovlyev, deputy chief of the Mukachevo border guard unit. "Presently, it creates problems. Local authorities and leaders of farms and educational institutions have distanced themselves from resolving the problem. There are also shortcomings on our part. We would also like everybody to remember the importance of the inviolability of young Ukraine's borders and to prevent violations.

Measures for Ensuring Air Traffic Safety Decreed

AU0109075892 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Aug 92 p 3

["Ukrainian Presidential Decree on Measures To Ensure the Security of Ukraine's Air Traffic" issued in Kiev on 20 August]

[Text] To ensure the security of Ukraine's air traffic and improve the reliability of aircraft technology and its competitiveness on the world market, I resolve as follows:

1. To approve the following officials as Ukraine's plenipotentiary representatives in the council of states that are signatories to the Agreement on Civil Aviation and on the Use of Airspace that was adopted in Minsk in December 1991:

President of Ukraine's Air Traffic State Administration;

Commander of Ukraine's Air Force;

Chairman of the State Committee for the Use of Ukraine's Airspace;

General designer of the Scientific and Technological Aviation Complex imeni O.K. Antonov.

2. To determine that, until Ukraine's corresponding legislation on questions of investigating air traffic accidents and certification of aircraft, international and categorized airfields and their equipment is adopted, the designers and manufacturers of aircraft technology and state organs of civil aviation and industry must be guided by rules for investigating air accidents and incidents, by norms of suitability of civil aircraft for flights and civil airfields for exploitation and by rules of their certification that are implemented by the council of states that are signatories to the Agreement on Civil Aviation and on the Use of Airspace.

3. The auditors investigation of air traffic accidents that affect the interests of two or more states, the certification of aircraft designers and manufacturers of aircraft technology, and also, within an agreed upon extent, of international and categorized airfields and their equipment with issuing corresponding documents is performed, on the territory of Ukraine, by the Interstate Aviation Committee in conformity with the recommendations by the International Civil Aviation Organization and in accordance with Ukraine's pre-state legislation.

4. The government of the Crimean Republic and the Kiev and Sevastopol state administrations must be given assistance in the investigation of air accidents and elimination of their consequences.

L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine
Kiev, 20 August 1992

Belarus

Forest Fires Approach Minsk; Villages Evacuated

LD0109150592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Yekaterina Vysotskaya]

[Text] Minsk September 1 TASS—So far forests, peatbogs and small villages were on fire in Belarus. However, now fires are approaching the capital of the republic which is wrapped in smoke and fire. Flames enveloped forests in the outskirts of Minsk. All trains approaching the city have to slow down because of the dense shroud of smoke.

According to the center of radiation control of the Belarusian State Committee for Hydrometeorology, a "bouquet" of harmful substances went to the atmosphere together with smog and concentrates "on the level of breathing." Most affected are people suffering from heartache and bronchial asthma. Incidentally, twice as many people make first-aid calls.

In view of the critical ecological situation, telephoned telegrams-warnings were sent to leaders of big industrial plants in Minsk demanding that they should sharply reduce "industrial" pollution with harmful substances as they represent a threat to the whole city.

About 3000 hectares of forests and peatbogs are now on fire in Belarus. The population from villages in the Brest, Gomel and Vitebsk regions are now being evacuated.

Republic's Role, National Consciousness Viewed

PM0109105792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Aug 92 p 3

[Interview with Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko by special correspondents O. Yegorova and Ya. Yuferova; place and date not given: "We Have Suffered To Attain the Lot of Peacemakers. Peace Begins in Politicians' Minds, Not on Civil War Fronts, Petr Kravchenko, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Belarus, Believes"]

[Text] [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Petr Kuzmich, Belarus has stated its readiness to be a peacemaker in ethnic conflicts. What lies behind this—a goodwill gesture, the possibility of hosting various conferences, including the Karabakh conference, or the presence of first-class minds ready to issue prescriptions over which the world has been racking its brains?

[Kravchenko] First, our position is sincere, and we feel compassion for other people's grief—this is in our people's nature. "Pamyarkounasts," i.e. tolerance, amicability, and obligingness, is considered a classic feature of Belarusians. Second, a moral right: There have never been any persecuted minorities here, and, in particular, not a single Jewish pogrom has been perpetrated on Belarusian soil since the 13th century. Third, an inbred memory—take the 20th century, for example: Belarusians have not declared a single war but have suffered more than others in the world wars which have swept through here like devastating ball lightning.

Maybe our intentions enshrine the instincts of civilized European thinking: Tranquillity in your own home is not enough for peace; please be so good as to work while calculating moves beyond your own threshold.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are you succeeding in this, or is fate playing up to you somewhat? Viskuli was an extemporization....

[Kravchenko] ....A historic one! Without revolution, blood, or ruins. Empires collapse once in a millennium. At supper in the Belovezhskaya Forest 7 December, when it became clear that Ukraine was ready to create new economic structures, we started thinking about where the coordinating center should be. Russia did not stake a claim, and Ukraine refused. I believe that our tolerance and neutrality, our impartial position was chosen. It seems that we do not instill a sense of fear in others.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Do you think the CIS will be long-lived?

[Kravchenko] It is, above all, an economic union, not a political one. We cannot manage without each other, and for the time being we resemble an angry young husband and wife who have divorced but are living in a communal apartment. I do not believe that the Commonwealth will remain the way it was in Viskuli. The possibility that it will collapse in 12 or six months' time cannot be ruled out. Someone might leave—well, as you please. However, it will be resurrected with three, five, seven, or nine members. The peoples of the former USSR will not be able to exist without an economic union or cultural and political ties.

In July, 10 presidents, minus Ukraine's, signed an agreement to build a big CIS office in Minsk. For the time being the CIS staff is housed in the Minsk Oblast party committee building, and all the states seek to bear the costs in equal parts.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You yourself once said that multilateral relations are inadequate, for there is no control mechanism.

[Kravchenko] Yes, we intend to create a standard of political contacts within the framework of the Commonwealth. Before the parliamentary recess, 21 agreements with Russia were signed on the initiative of the two premiers—V. Kebich and Ye. Gaydar: economy, transportation, standards, finances, military strategic questions. The basis is the goodwill of the two peoples. We signed them on equal terms for the first time, having refused to join the collective security system in Tashkent 15 May. In accordance with our understanding of neutrality, in the event of a conflict between two sides, we

are opposed to a third side (Belarus, for example) automatically being drawn into it.

If we speak of pure politics, Belarus will move toward sovereignty and build a civilized European state. However, for the time being, the existence of the Commonwealth must lead to the creation of an East European market.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Is this a transitional model on the way to a West European market?

[Kravchenko] We are not ready, Europe cannot accept us, and we will willy-nilly coexist alongside our old standard thinking, for it is not at all just a matter of a different railroad gage.

The road to Europe is not easy for the CIS. I believe that Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, and Finland will very soon join the EEC. The parliaments have blessed the movement of their neutral states into a common Europe. Then it will be the turn of Poland, the Czech lands, Slovakia, and Hungary. Then will come Romania and Bulgaria. I would like to see peace and an alliance with the new Balkan states. Next it will be the Baltic states and, some time after 2005, Belarus. We need 13-15 years of serious preparatory work. Belarus, like its neighbors in the CIS, has its own path. In moving away from each other we are also starting to draw closer. Forces not only of repulsion, but also of mutual attraction are already operating in the Commonwealth.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] From outside you get the impression that Belarus aspires to the role of Switzerland or Belgium in East Europe: peacemaking, neutrality, and mediation.

[Kravchenko] I believe that there cannot be perpetual neutrality, just as there cannot be perpetual motion. The classic European neutral countries are being integrated in the West European community. However, we Belarusians, proceeding from our tragic past, have romanticized and still romanticize neutrality. This is simply at the level of the nation's instinct. We have been beaten so frequently that it still seems: If we become neutral, this is a guarantee that no one will attack us.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Do you mean to say that neutrality for Belarus is a necessary yet brief moment in history?

[Kravchenko] Yes, and we will strive for it. We will be neutral for some time in both the military and the political sphere. By 1999, under the terms of the Lisbon protocol and the treaty on strategic offensive arms, nuclear weapons are to have been removed from our territory. In other words, we will be able to attain our long-awaited goal—neutrality. Then, willy-nilly, we will start to integrate. These trends will ultimately triumph. We advocate that Europe should be the first civilized continent in which ideological enmity will be overcome and the chief issue will be one of equalizing the living standards of various peoples.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Petr Kuzmich, the republics, including Belarus, having become independent, have begun rapidly forming their own diplomatic departments. Is not cold professionalism being replaced by ardent patriotism?

[Kravchenko] Of course, in Belarus we do not have multilane [mnogokolennyy] schooling, as in Europe, and are hardly likely to (although I still wish to point out that Belarus is not simply a UN member since 1945 but one of the founder states of the United Nations). In my opinion, everything depends on the individual. Gorchakov, Pushkin's classmate in the Tsarskoye Selo Lycee, was not born into a diplomat's family, but he had no equals. Above all, a politician who is capable of reflecting the interests of all spheres of the state must work as a diplomat.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Belarus has been recognized by approximately 100 countries, and diplomatic relations have been established with 56 in a short space of time. Pardon me, but can it afford to represent its independence on an international level?

[Kravchenko] You are right, our statehood began with symbolic foreign exchange rubles to its credit. We have reached agreement with the United States on the reciprocal free granting of premises for embassies. In other places, the Russian Foreign Ministry shares its work place. In other places, as in neighborly Poland, we have opened an embassy in full working order.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are foreign diplomats hurrying to Minsk?

[Kravchenko] Yes, to date 18 ambassadors have been accredited to us. I believe that the leading powers take account of the fact that the headquarters of the CIS are here, whatever forecasts are made for the Commonwealth itself. Second, it is somehow easier to open an embassy in a region where there is just some stability and where civil war is not raging....

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] How do the ambassadors live?

[Kravchenko] At present they are living in dachas—the residences of the former Central Committee leadership in Drozdy—and in Minsk hotels. We are trying to create normal conditions for them all, but we have not always succeeded. We have a lot to learn, and we are learning. For it is not only a matter of Foreign Ministry protocol, which is important in a decent community.... It is a matter of knowing other people's interests and combining them favorably with your own.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The press has featured the figure that this year, Russia has allocated to Belarus 7 billion rubles to eliminate the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. What has this money been spent on?

[Kravchenko] This decision of the Gaydar government has been estimated at its true worth by Belarus, but it has not been possible to spend the money yet—it has not

been received yet. In general, things are very bad in the republic now with regard to Chernobyl. Over the more than six years since the disaster people have, in point of fact, become accustomed to their own misfortune. We have realized that the world has abandoned us and we can rely on our own resources alone. The world is full of its own disasters (including ecological ones) and its own problems. We saw this for ourselves at the world ecological congress in Rio de Janeiro, when we named terrible figures: Some 2.2 million Belarusians suffered because of Chernobyl, as they once did in World War II. In point of fact, one Belarusian in every four. All this made a stunning impression, and we realized this from the reaction of the presidents of many countries. Chernobyl is our cross—only for what?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The Russian parliament has repealed the Minsk agreement of the CIS leaders on the return of cultural and historical assets to the peoples who created them. Russia's best intellectual forces have voiced the fear that the best collections assembled over centuries might be destroyed in an ecstasy of nationalistic vandalism. Then Rembrandt will go to Holland, Van Gogh to France.... In Tashkent the CIS leaders adopted a new version, which has now, in turn, aroused the indignation of the intelligentsia of many Commonwealth states....

[Kravchenko] The February agreement enshrined the idea that the property of other states must be returned if it was acquired unjustly. However, if there is a contract of sale or a will, or if it is a personal gift, of course there cannot be any claims. The Hermitage is not only a Russian, but also a worldwide phenomenon, like the museums of Paris, Rome, and New York. There is the concept of the integrity of a museum collection, of the uniqueness of a particular exhibit. This is why it does not occur to the Italians to say: Now then, return our Mona Lisa, for it was once taken away by Napoleon. I insist that, of course, our nation is the one to have suffered most in Europe. We do not have a national picture gallery, we do not have a national treasure house, we do not have our own Matenadaran. Our nation has been done out of its fair share and robbed. The intelligentsia is right to shout about cultural genocide today. Everything was done to deprive us, like zombies, of our national memory and consciousness. We will recover our cultural heritage—there is no other way out—when three criteria have been met. That which was seized at the time of military campaigns, raids, and expropriation; second, if it was taken away in the course of an evacuation; third, when we ourselves have "forgotten" and not demanded the return of our own treasures. For some reason it was thought somehow inconvenient to do this in an integral country.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What first and foremost would you like to see returned?

[Kravchenko] Skarina's first editions. Belarus is the motherland of East Slav book publishing and was the second country to translate the Holy Scripture into its native tongue. There are several thousand copies of Skarina's first editions in approximately 30 museums around the world. However, there is not a single complete edition in Belarus, and the national library has just a few fragments. Just imagine, we are celebrating Skarina's 500th anniversary in Polotsk and opening a museum in his homeland, but Russia has responded only with silence to a request from our cultural minister, despite the fact that there are dozens of Skarina's books in the Central Lenin Library.

Then there are our famous Slutsk belts woven with gold. There are 300 in one Moscow museum, but not one in Belarus. Ukraine, Poland, and America have them. Recently the first belt was returned to us from Britain. We are striving to give back what does not belong to us. As in the postwar time, when we returned a unique collection of Armenian manuscripts, as well as all the valuables confiscated by the customs in Grodno and Brest. It does not even occur to us to nationalize things brought out illegally, and we seek out the lawful owners.... However, in return, we would like a similar attitude toward us....

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Petr Kuzmich, a delicate question: Belarusians have never suffered from nationalism. Could the strong and powerful process of the current national consciousness not cause harm, when the language of a great culture—Russian culture—is "guilty" of being also the "language of the party"?

[Kravchenko] I do not think this threatens us. If you take an objective view, the technical intelligentsia is mainly Russian-and English-speaking. Not even decades of persistent work to raise the national consciousness will be able to upset this balance. Who among us would say that great Russian culture does not exist? However, there is, after all, a great French culture, too! However, you must also know your native tongue!

We had a golden decade from 1918 through 1928: our own statehood and schools in four languages—Belarusian, Russian, Polish, and Jewish schools. The Constitution was in four languages. Incidentally, we have always treated others better than ourselves. This is our national disease. Today we must not only retain respect for others but also finally be conscious of ourselves as a people and a maturing nation.

Defense Ministry To Operate Commercial Flights

PM0209101392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 92 p 3

[Valeriy Kovalev and Pavel Chernenko report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "'Belavia'—New Airline Under Belarusian Defense Ministry"]

[Text] Minsk, 31 Aug—As is known, an airman must fly regularly in order to maintain his skills as a pilot. However, now, at a time when there is a scarcity of material and financial resources, this is becoming problematic in the Belarusian Armed Forces. The Air Force Command has now suggested to the republic Council of

Ministers that military aircraft and helicopters be used to transport national economic freight. The Council of Ministers has supported the suggestion and granted the Defense Ministry the right to allocate aircraft to transport various kinds of civilian freight on not only domestic but also international routes. Naturally, for payment at contract prices. Let us emphasize that these flights will be made without the allocation of additional funds for combat training of airmen in military transport aviation.

The "Belavia" aviation company will be set up under the Belarusian Defense Ministry to implement this commercial scheme.

Accord Signed With Russia on Repaying USSR Debt

LD3108182492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1811 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Anna Gladysheva]

[Text] Minsk August 31 TASS—An agreement between Russia and Belarus on the payment of the foreign economic debt of the former Soviet Union was published here today by the Belarusian Government.

According to this document, the Russian Federation undertook to pay the share of Belarus which amounts to 3.5 billion U.S. dollars or 4.13 per cent of the total debt of the former Soviet Union reaching about 70 billion dollars. In return, Russia will possess the so-called assets which include a certain part of the Belarusian share in the property of the former Soviet Union abroad.

Moldova

Ambassador to Russia Justifies 'Concessions'

MK0109135192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Aug 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Moldovan Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Russia Petr Luchinskiy by Natalya Prikhodko; place and date not given; under the general heading "Moldova": "Now Is the Time to Get Out of the Way of the Boulder, or, Failing That, to Stand Aside and Accept the Inevitable Gracefully"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] In recent times, Petr Luchinskiy's career has taken such a tumble that at times it seemed unlikely that his ascent to the top would resume.

Today Luchinskiy is Moldova's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Russia.

In 1991 he was a member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. At one time he was head of the Moldavian Komsomol [Lenin Communist Youth League]. Then he was whisked off to Moscow, and from there he was sent to Tajikistan as a Communist Party Central Committee secretary. In November 1989 Luchinskiy returned to his own republic as first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee.

[Prikhodko] Your return took place with the blessing of the national intelligentsia, which had acquired noticeable influence by then. However, at that time, the Moldovan Communist Party Central Committee—apart from fulfilling its traditional role as a stronghold of communist ideology—was also expected to counteract the drawbacks [izderzhki] of the rise of national self-consciousness, including nationalism, which became one of the sources and component parts of the recent armed conflict. Does the ambiguity of the situation explain your chosen strategy of concessions? For example, you "conceded" over Ivan Petkov, the "Vremya" television program's own correspondent, when national-radicals gave him a thrashing in parliament—which was continued in the direct sense outside—and you, not arguing with the excited public, immediately struck an agreement with State Television and Radio leadership to replace the journalist.

[Luchinskiy] In any scenario, it is important to see the first cause. I was a student in the philosophy faculty in the sixties, when the process of the active formation of a national intelligentsia, sensing a demand for the development of the language and traditions of its people, clashed with the process of suppressing the latter. Then it was considered indecent even to speak Moldavian. Naturally, on my return I could not but accept the struggle of my erstwhile friends and fellow students (many had become famous writers) for national revival. Admittedly, from a distance it seemed that it (the battle) could only be conducted from positions of common sense. Alas, "the boulder had already been sent rolling down the hill" and I had no right to put people underneath it. On my arrival immediately after the memorable assault on the Internal Affairs Ministry, trying to prevent a scheduled gathering of many thousands in the capital, I organized a dialogue meeting between leaders of the People's Front and the International Movement [Interdvizheniye] and I myself spoke for over two hours in two languages on Moldovan television. Of course, to spite the national gathering [sobraniye] of the Moldovan People's Front, I could have called people to another meeting. However, on the whole, it would have been Russian-speakers, feeling uncomfortable in their surroundings because people around them were not speaking Russian, who would have turned up. It would have ended in a mass brawl, a fight. Of course, I could have stood up for my old friend Petkov, but, as he had already lost the confidence of broad circles of society, any information from him now would inevitably prompt irritation. Remember, the person who serves up a bowl of poison to a wise man expects him to accept the inevitable gracefully.

[Prikhodko] It is probable that the ambiguity of the positions also determined your defeat in the April 1990 elections for Supreme Soviet chairman—you lost to your colleague, Mircea Snegur, secretary of the Moldovan

Communist Party Central Committee, who "made his stand clear" earlier than you.

[Luchinskiy] Snegur was the first of the republic leaders to openly support the national movement. As for me, it has to be admitted that at that time, I did not foresee the full severity of the situation and I did not particularly prepare for the elections. We did not even assemble the Central Committee bureau to recommend my candidacy for the party. Then there was a change of regime in Romania, a general explosion of anticommunist fervor, and finally, the August putsch. By this time, I had again been elected a member of the Politburo in Moscow.

[Prikhodko] What did you do after the putsch? Is it the case that you deliberately ducked into the shadows so that people might forget about your Politburo membership?

[Luchinskiy] I was not in Moscow on 19 August. It is partly for this reason that I later came to head the "workshop" inventory commission ["tsekhovskaya" inventarizatsionnaya komissiya] which had been created. I was involved in this for several months: I helped people to resolve problems which arose, to obtain all the statutory benefits, and to get fixed up with a job somehow. After that, I worked in the Academy of Sciences as the executive director of the Fund for Social Sciences, and, still being a Moldovan parliament deputy, I continued to travel to its sessions. Indeed, there was a period where I preferred not to "parade myself". I understood that, until passions abated, any word from me would be misinterpreted. However, through all of this, I in no way intended to restore the post communist regime in Moldova, as was suspected in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY.

[Prikhodko] Your next move up the rungs of power in Moldova had begun in Russia. You are a senior functionary, and therefore you see some prospects in this for yourself. However, what are the prospects for relations between the two countries in the light of the conflict in the Dniester region, which has merely been put on hold by the efforts of the military? Will it be possible to stabilize it, having overcome the ambiguity of the situation in which Russian politicians have their own interests?

[Luchinskiy] The conflict's participants face a very long and difficult process of rapprochement which is likely to have complications, and all their patience and skill in avoiding confrontation will again be required to overcome them. However, up to now, Tiraspol has torpedoed the necessary talks, refusing to participate in the work of the conciliation commission and forging ahead with setting up its own power structures. However, it would be wrong now to throw accusations at just one party. Protracted confrontation is always a sign that both sides are guilty. Here, however, an extraordinary amount depends on a third party—Russia. On whether or not, for example, Russia stops secretly supporting the Dniester leaders, giving them material aid without which the Dniester region's economy would look no better than Moldova's.

[Prikhodko] Of course, your activity's success in this direction, which is reinforced by extensive links with Moscow, will strengthen your positions in Moldova itself too, where, in the corridors of power, you are already seen as one of the most realistic candidates for the presidency in the coming election in 1995. What is your attitude to this forecast?

[Luchinskiy] In no way do I want people to see me primarily as a rival to the incumbent president. Furthermore, Moldova may well become a parliamentary republic, as has already been proposed in the constitutional commission. How many more changes will take place before 1995? The unpredictability of the transition period in our country is intensified by general chaos. Forecasts are senseless, especially when it comes to politicians' futures. For them, three years now is an enormous time scale—a time of uncertainty and inevitability.

Kazakhstan

President on Upcoming Black Sea Talks in Bishkek

Proposes 'Political Initiatives'

OW0109203092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting Monday [31 August] with the editors-in-chief of the CIS leading mass media agencies, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev called for the inception of new fundamental coordinating structures in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States. He informed the mass media heads that he is going to come up with five political initiatives on behalf of the Kazakh government at the meeting of the heads of states in Bishkek. In particular, the Kazakh president intends to propose,

1. to set up a Coalition Council for Economic Cooperation among the CIS countries. In the opinion of President Nazarbayev, the Council members should rigidly adhere to the "general rules of the game" and bear "full responsibility" for breaking mutual obligations;

2. to set up a banking union. In the president's concept, this measure should bar the trend for the CIS countries' spontaneous adoption of new currencies. President Nazarbayev notes that the introduction of various national currencies may produce a confusion "since each republic will be taking measures to protect its own currency". The president regards as the most advantageous variants, a situation when the CIS countries would remain in the common ruble zone, or adopt a new general currency unit (patterned after the West European ECU [European currency unit]) which would be used parallel to the circulation of the countries' own currencies. President Nazarbayev deems as the optimum variant, the use of a "super-national currency";

3. to set up an economic court of arbitration. (An agreement regarding its legal status was signed at the CIS recent summit in Moscow - IF [INTERFAX]).

4. to increase the role of the inter-parliamentary assembly and attract new members into it (Ukraine and Azerbaijan stating their negative attitude toward their membership in this structure). President Nazarbayev maintains that the participants of the parliamentary assembly ought to work out a "general law adoption policy in order that provisions of the CIS national legislation would not disagree, first and foremost, in the economic sphere";

5. to set up a defense union. In the president's opinion, this decision is necessitated by the need to effect economic spending of national budgets.

In commenting of the agreements reached by presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk during their meeting in Yalta, President Nazarbayev proposed that division of the Black Sea Fleet should be addressed with the participation of all the CIS countries.

President Nazarbayev said that the economic disintegration and rupture of economic ties stand out as the primary reason for the general decline of production in all the republics of the former Soviet Union. The president also stated his intention to announce later this year, a new approach to the realization of economic transformations in Kazakhstan.

The observers expect different responses of the participants of the forthcoming summit in Bishkek to the above initiatives by President Nazarbayev. In the opinion of the CIS experts, his initiatives will most probably be opposed by the Ukrainian government which, despite its certain interest in developing cooperation inside the CIS, is still inclined to regard the Commonwealth as a structure expedient for a "civilized divorce of the former Soviet Union republics".

IF Note: At a press conference in Kiev August 18 dedicated to the first anniversary of the Independence Day, President Leonid Kravchuk said, in particular, "....in proposing to set up a confederation, President Nazarbayev is following the same route as a year ago. At present, we can no longer impose on the people the idea that has proved to be venal and which is associated with most undesirable developments".

In his address, August 22, the Ukrainian president once again stated his resolute decision to introduce the republic's own currency.

In the observers' opinion, with certain reservations, Ukraine can, at most, support two of the five items (on the inception of a coordinating economic council and economic court). In the meantime, the experts maintain, the leaders of Russia and Kyrgyzstan are likely to welcome most of the initiatives proposed by the Kazakh president. In this regard, they are referring to President Askar Akayev's yesterday's statement, when he said that the Kyrgyz people "have come to the conclusion that the ties among the ex-Soviet republics appear to be much stronger than many people believed - on the state, economic and humanitarian level". They are giving first priority to Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as a countries with which they need to develop close cooperation.

IF Note: In one of the recent releases of the Presidential Bulletin, the coordinator of the working group of the Council of the Heads of Governments of the CIS Countries, Ivan Korotchenya, did not exclude a possibility that "the CIS countries may adopt a system of differentiated relations: some of the states will consolidate their ties and set up confederate-type relations (for example, Russia, Kazakhstan, probably Belarus), whereas the other states would confine themselves to a limited number of commitments".

Urges All CIS Leaders To Attend

OW0109133692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0949 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev thinks that all CIS heads of state should take part in the talks on the future of the Black Sea Fleet. He made the statement at a round-table meeting with media representatives on Monday [31 August].

He said that the fleet is a strategic weapon which belonged to the entire USSR. He was satisfied with the decline in confrontation between Ukraine and Russia on the issue, but stressed that it is not a matter that belongs to those two countries alone.

The same applies to the negotiations between Russia and NATO on arms control. President Nazarbayev stressed that if these and other issues are discussed by all CIS leaders, this will only build confidence between their countries.

Nazarbayev Places Harvest Under Personal Control

LD0209093492 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Taking into account the huge importance of creating reliable stocks of food—especially bread—and of guaranteeing a normal supply of food for the people of Kazakhstan during the difficult transition period, President Nursultan Nazarbayev has placed the organization of harvest operations under his personal control. Trips to the regions that are the republic's main grain providers have been planned by him during the harvest period. The president has already made a number of these trips, as has been reported. The head of state will visit Turgay Oblast with this aim today. During the course of a two-day working visit, he will spend time at state and private farms, where he will become acquainted with assembly line work and where he will meet farming workers. Nursultan Nazarbayev will visit a number of state and joint enterprises in the oblast center.

Tajikistan

Further on Protest Rally at Presidential Palace

CIS Commander Denies Harboring Nabiyev

LD0209075992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0709 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe August 2 TASS—General Mukhriddin Ashurov, commander of the CIS motorised infantry division deployed in Tajikistan, has refuted information circulated by some mass media organs that Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev is allegedly staying on the territory of one of the units of the Dushanbe garrison.

"This is a most shameless lie, circulated by certain forces with the aim to play the army card, to whip up anti-army and anti-Russian feelings. I am stating officially that the Russian army is maintaining strict neutrality and is not interfering in the internal political conflict in the sovereign republic," General Ashurov said.

A political situation continues to be uncertain in the Tajik capital, because the authorities do not supply any information whatsoever about what is going on in the republic. According to the sources close to the Tajik parliament, a session of the presidium of the parliament, held behind closed doors, ended late at night on Tuesday [1 September]. The session analysed the situation in the city and the republic, but its results are unknown. According to the same source, speaker of the parliament Akbarsho Iskandarov, who addressed the session, rules out any other way of settling the conflict but a political one. Now talks are under way between representatives of the legislative authorities and organisers of the rally. They are discussing, among other things, the release of a large group of ministers and other government officials who are kept hostage. The group of hostages continues to include the journalist Nabim Karimov, deputy director of the KHOVAR news agency, who happened to be at the presidential palace last Monday on business.

Organisers of the rally, who call themselves representatives of the Dushanbe youth and refugees from the conflict zone and who maintain that they have no connections with any political party or movement in the republic, continue to insist on the president's resignation. Meanwhile, the whereabouts of the Tajik leader continue to be unknown, which evokes irritation and bewilderment of the majority of Dushanbe residents. They are accusing the president of cowardice and the betrayal of his compatriots.

Democrats Deny Involvement

LD0109151292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1317 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Galina Grindneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 1 TASS—Tajik democrats did not organise unlawful rally in front of the presidential palace and were not involved in the actions of picketers who seized the palace and took a group of hostages, according to Shodmon Yusuf, chairman of the headquarters of united democratic forces of Tajikistan. [INTERFAX in English at 1005 GMT on 2 September in a similar report adds: "On August 31, a large group of refugees and representatives of the political opposition, among them members of the Islamic Revival Party, Democratic Party and the Rastokhez popular movement burst into the presidential palace demanding Nabiyev's resignation because of his "inability to solve the problems facing the refugees, to remove tensions and to end armed confrontation between the political groupings."]

However, democrats share the demands of those rallying in the Shokhidon Square, he added.

The rally was organised by youngsters from Dushanbe and refugees from the zone of conflict who staged the daring act as they were "despaired by the criminal policy of President Rakhman Nabiyev and his team, by the inability of the head of state to stop bloodshed" in the republic, according to Yusuf.

The parliamentary presidium is holding a closed-door session at present to discuss the latest developments in the Tajik capital, according to well-informed sources.

The situation remains tense in the city, although it is quiet in the streets, public transport and shops are working.

Nabiyev Whereabouts Still Unknown

LD0209084692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0444 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Once again our Dushanbe correspondent Alishe Khodzhayev is on the line. He will now tell us the latest news about political and economic life in Tajikistan. Hello.

[Khodzhayev] Hello. For the second day those at the rally in Shakhidon Square are holding the Presidential Palace which was seized without a single shot on 31 August. Many of the staff in the apparatus of the president and the Cabinet of Ministers are being forced to remain at their work stations. Some of the staff were released yesterday, including journalists.

Those at the rally are mainly refugees from the zones of the armed conflicts in Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube Oblasts. Back on 28 August, they presented the republic's President Rakhman Nabiyev with an appeal containing a number of demands regarding the stabilization of the situation in the republic and stopping the fratricidal war. However, in the last few nights, there have been various clashes in (Baktarskiy) Rayon of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. Desperate people and youths from Dushanbe who joined them then went to seize the Presidential Palace on 31 August. The whereabouts of President Rakhman Nabiyev are not yet known. According to some sources, he has left the republic. According to others he has allegedly flown to Moscow where the signing of the treaty on friendship and cooperation was to take place today with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. According to other sources he is somewhere on the territory of the republic, that is, at home. The rally participants in Shakhidon Square are insisting on President Nabiyev's immediate resignation and on the handing over of power to the Supreme Soviet. They are also categorically opposed to the president's idea of introducing peacekeeping forces into Tajikistan's hotspots, regarding that as interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Tajikistan. We do not know how the extraordinary sitting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet ended last night. Journalists were not allowed to attend. The press is in an information vacuum, and the official authorities are remaining silent. Rumors are spreading in the city all the time. [Dushanbe Radio in Tajik at 1200 GMT on 2 September in a similar report adds: "It is expected that the issue [words indistinct] of Article 124 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, on no confidence in the president, will be discussed. [Words indistinct] experts believe that this issue should be resolved today."]

Another thing I want to say is that radio listeners in Tajikistan cannot hear Mayak radio station. This decision was made by the Communications Ministry. The explanation given for this is that a number of journalists representing their agencies here convey biased information to their editorial offices which does not correspond correctly to the events in Tajikistan.

[Announcer] So, our radio station has been switched off?

[Khodzhayev] Unfortunately, this is the case. I don't think it will last for long, but at the moment this is the case. Finally, according to data from the republic's Internal Affairs Ministry, last night passed calmly without a single shot being fired.

Broadcasts Suspended; Minister Resigns

LD0209093192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0915 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 2 TASS—The broadcasting of Russian and Uzbek television programmes and Channel One radio programme, Rossiya and Mayak radio programmes has been suspended throughout Tajikistan since Tuesday evening [1 September], a spokesman at the Ministry of Communications told ITAR-TASS today.

A decision to this effect was taken on the strength of a written instruction from Mirbobo Mirrakhimov, chairman of the people's Tajik television network, who pleaded the "situation that has taken shape in the republic."

It has become known from sources close to government quarters that republican Interior Minister Makhmadayez Navdzhuvanov has tendered his resignation on the grounds that he "can no longer participate in the internecine fratricidal war and sees no way out of the current situation".

Background to Resignation Noted

LD0209095892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0933 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By KHOVAR-correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe September 2 TASS— The Constitution Compliance Committee of Tajikistan has issued a statement about the political situation prevailing in the republic during recent months. "Government bodies, public organizations and political parties did not make full use of legal opportunites to resolve political problems, and failed to fully observe humanitarian traditions

and customs of the Tajik people. Use of arms, murders, taking hostages and violation of human rights became order of the day. The basic principles of state system and integrity of the Tajik Republic are being threatened," the statement said.

The Constitution Compliance Committee called on the republic's president, the Supreme Soviet and the government to take necessary measures for stabilising the political situation, and strictly observing the Constitution and laws, if need be to call all those guilty to account. The committee also appealed to consider the issues of declaring the state of emergency in certain areas of Tajikistan, and of fulfilling the republic's defence agreements with the CIS, aimed at protecting territorial integrity and sovereignty of Tajikistan.

Officials Not 'In Control'

OW0109161192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] None of Tajikistan's top officials is in control of the situation at the moment (Prime Minister Akbar Mirzoyev was dismissed on Monday and the parliament speaker went to Kurgan-Tyube Region to pave the way for imposing a state of emergency there).

Our correspondent reports that tensions in Dushanbe are extremely high. According to unofficial reports, militants are concentrating in 5 areas of the city. The same sources say that the leaders of Leninabad Region intend to proclaim an independent republic there. According to other reports, there was an attempt to eliminate Shodmon Yusupov.

Nabiyev in Capital Directing Efforts

LD0209151792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev is now staying in the Republic's capital, taking every possible measure to release the hostages and to normalize the situation. This was stated by the president's office in the report circulated today at the Tajik permanent mission in Moscow. There had been earlier reports that Nabiyev fled from the presidential residence and is hiding on the territory of a military unit in Dushanbe. [Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik at 1200 GMT on 2 September reports: "Everyone is asking where the president of Tajikistan is. According to information we have just received, President Rakhman Nabiyev is taking refuge in the CIS garrison in the city of Dushanbe. He (?is trying) by every way and means to bring the CIS forces on his side and use them against the protestors."]

The authors of the document accused the Tajik opposition of committing "another illegal act aimed against the Constitution, democracy, and human rights" on 31 August. "The armed militants, among whom many have a criminal past, disarmed the guards and entered the residence of the Tajik president, taking hostage members of government and staff of the presidential office and the Cabinet of Ministers, the report says. More than 20 hostages are still being held under guard in the presidential residence." "The president's office has assessed these "anticonstitutional actions" as "a direct state coup attempt carried out according to the same script as the one last May." Then, as is well-known, supporters and opponents of the current republican president argued at rallies in the central squares of Dushanbe for several weeks.

In the opinion of the authors of the press release, those behind all these confrontational actions have been the "Islamic fundamentalists, who for the sake of power and pursuing their self-interested aims, have opted for a further worsening of the situation in Tajikistan, for the violation of its territorial integrity, and for dismantling of the Republic." Their aim is to block any links with Russia and the CIS republics and to pursue their ambitious desires, the report says.

Uzbekistan

President Marks 1st Anniversary of Independence

Addresses News Conference

LD0109202492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 1 Sep 92

["Excerpt" of news conference statement by President Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov in Tashkent on 31 August—recorded]

[Text] We are building an open, law-governed, and democratic state which should guarantee freedoms and rights, the freedoms of citizens of a society built on the equality of all citizens regardless of nationality or political convictions.

We oppose ideologization of the economy. We reject this and think that the economy should operate only according to the laws of economics. That is a very important principle.

We renounce the dictate of one ideology. Consequently we renounce the dictate of one party because a multiparty system has been declared by laws adopted by Uzbekistan's parliament. We support respect for the rights of all national minorities and respect for their language and culture. We fully guarantee their participation in all state structures and in public life.

We favor a society based on market relations—and for us market relations are a matter of economic policy, of economic policy as a whole—being built now in Uzbekistan. We are now in a transitional period.

In all our relations we favor equality and also the complete deideologization of our relations with all states. We are ready to cooperate as equals, under equal conditions, and for mutual benefit with all those who seek cooperation. The modest experience we have in concluding treaties, judging from press reports and from trips abroad, confirms all this.

We are currently recognized by 121 states. We have diplomatic relations with 48 of them and [words indistinct] have opened embassies. We are a member of the UN, CSCE, and a number of international organizations in which our delegates take an active part.

Our attitude to Russia is unalterable. There are no dilemmas there. I said this when signing the treaty with Russia to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and all the Russian leaders. Uzbekistan does not envision a future without Russia. We are tied to Russia by thousands of threads and—regardless of who rules these states—to people who, alongside us, have borne on their shoulders the burdens of our history, a history of innumerable trials. Our peoples are so closely tied to each other that it is impossible to alter this relationship. It is useless and thoroughly unfounded.

Russia is not some former, bygone center that once played a major role in the welfare of our people; in many ways, it is perceived this way today. Russia has experienced all these burdens and learned these lessons. The Russian people will choose their path—they have chosen it already—and they will travel down it. I am convinced that we will always be by their side.

The Russia factor plays a stabilizing role in Central Asia today. I would like to take the opportunity to say that today. Russia is the main link in the pact, the agreement on mutual security—its might, its strength, its prestige.

I am convinced that together with Russia we will preserve our borders—a very important point—and that these borders will be inviolable.

As far as fundamentalism is concerned, is there a threat that this very dangerous phenomenon will grow? On the whole, it may infiltrate our country in the guise of creeping counterrevolution and then take root. It would then be difficult to extirpate. It must be understood that such a danger exists in Uzbekistan.

But what else would I like to say in this respect? Even if that [words indistinct] (?dangerous plant) should grow, let us put it like that, fundamentalism will not triumph in Uzbekistan. I say this categorically. Why? The people whose forefathers were men like Ali-Sher Novai, Ulugbek, Biruni, Al Khorazmi, Akhmet Yasavi, and others—the influence of these great thinkers of the orient who lived here in Uzbekistan—all their influence today is so great that with such a civilization, such a culture behind it, the people cannot return to the past, to that dark past called fundamentalism. It is unnatural. It is impossible.

Speech to Nation

LD0109193992 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0600 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Speech by President Islam Karimov in Tashkent on the occasion of independence day; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Words indistinct] the fate of our fellow countrymen separated from their motherland. Come to our fatherland. This holy [word indistinct], its bright arrival, joys, and sorrows you, dear ones, share it with us. If we appeal [word indistinct] it would have been just.

Family honor, [words indistinct] patriotism. This is foremost [word indistinct] preserving family traditions and its enrichment, not to allow the staining of the auspicious names of our forefathers, with labor and knowledge to stregnthen the [word indistinct] and to respect the people.

Dear fellow countrymen! During such an important festival we should open our hearts wide, and hand in hand we should share the sorrows [words indistinct] for the sake of our country and land we will devote everything. We will not divert from our chosen path. For our independence we will not [words indistinct] high qualities, our voluntary labor.

Dear friends! [Words indistinct] recalling our auspicious traditions I should say that which is in all our hearts. [Word indistinct] peace, calm, well-being, happiness, and (?blessing) be everywhere in our country. Protect us from evil and [word indistinct]. May happiness reign among our children, all believers, and our people. May they attain their worthy goals. May it strengthen our independence and protect it from the evil eye. All of us together, [word indistinct] should keep the spirit of our forefathers (?bright). The Almighty will himself assist us in these important works.

Long live our national independence! Long live the independence of Uzbekistan!

Ambassador Calls For Broader Ties With Russia

OW3108163292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbekistan's ambassador to Russia Yusuf Abdullayev has told a news conference in Moscow that his country is interested in all-round relations with Russia. Ambassador Abdullayev was speaking on the occasion of Uzbekistan's first independence anniversary. He said that currently a treaty of economic cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan for 1993 was being drafted and that he hoped that when that treaty is signed, problems with the mutual supplies of raw materials would be resolved.

An adviser to the President of Uzbekistan, Saydmukhtar Saydgaziyev, told the news conference that relations

with the republics of Central Asia and neighboring countries were on the list of his country's priorities. He said that Uzbekistan remained committed to the idea of one ruble space in the CIS. At the same time the presidential adviser said that unstable economic situation in Russia, including the shortage of cash was forcing individual republics to issue their own money.

Saydgaziyev voiced concern over growing Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia and the unbridled influx of weapons to the region, in particular to Tajikistan.

Nonaligned Movement Admits Uzbekistan as Member

LD0109204692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1628 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By Valery Fedortsov]

[Text] Jakarta September 1 TASS—Today Uzbekistan became a full member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), but Armenia was granted the status of an observer. This decision was taken at the NAM summit which opened today in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

Uzbekistan's admittance to the NAM coincides with the independence day being celebrated by the Uzbek people on 1 September.

The full membership status of the NAM was also granted to the Philippines, Brunei and Myanmar [Burma].

Today the NAM unifies 108 countries.

Oblasts Exceed Grain Plans; Production Rises

PM0209111192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Adilbek Kaipbergenov under the rubric: "Short and to the Point": "A Gift, Yes, a Gift"]

[Text] On the eve of the first anniversary of the republic's Independence Day—1 September—Uzbekistan's grain producers had sold 1.3 million tonnes of grain to the state—400,000 more than last year. All the viloyats (oblasts) have overfulfilled their production and procurement plans.

Armenia

Azerbaijani Cease-Fire Violations Reported

NC0109200892 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Three Azerbaijani MiG-25 aircraft carried out an unprecedented air raid on the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh during the evening of 31 August (?in violation) of the cease-fire agreement. They dropped nearly 20 cluster bombs on residential districts. Sixteen residents died and 121 were injured during that cruel bombing. The Armenian self-defense forces hit one of the planes, which crashed near Shusha. On the very night when the cease-fire agreement concluded in Alma-Ata was to go into effect, Azerbaijani Army units subjected Gadrut and Martuni to fierce shelling with artillery and Grad rockets. Tag, Tagaser, Vank, Kochbek, and Kemrakuch in Gadrutskiy Rayon and all the front-line villages in Mardakertskiy Rayon were shelled. Two residents died and three were injured in Gadrut. This was reported by ITAR-TASS based on its own sources. The news agency also emphasized that the Azerbaijani violation of the cease-fire also was confirmed by independent observers in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Georgiy Petrosyan, acting chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet, described these overnight shellings as provocation on the part of Azerbaijan and its leadership's slap at the peace (?efforts) by Kazakhstan and the CSCE.

The military operations undertaken on Armenia's borders confirm the deceitfulness of the statements by various Azerbaijani leaders, including the president, that supposedly the cease-fire agreement applies not to Karabakh, but to the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

According to confirmed reports received from the rayon soviet executive committees, virtually all the border settlements in Krasnoselskiy and Kapanskiy Rayons have been shelled by tanks, artillery, and Grad rockets since early this morning. According to an ARMENPRES correspondent in Zangezur [southern Armenia], Goris and Kornidzor were shelled at 0200 on 1 September. Apparently, the cease-fire agreement is not binding on Azerbaijan at all.

During battles on 30 and 31 August, Armenian fighters succeeded in fully routing and ousting from Krasnoselskiy the Azerbaijani Army units which had invaded the Republic's territory. The border posts near Vahan have been restored. The enemy had taken control of these posts the previous day. Therefore, yet another infringement directed at Armenia's territorial integrity by Azerbaijan, which pursued openly provocative objectives on the eve of the cease-fire, was foiled.

Judging from today's incidents, however, the Azerbaijani side has not given up its plan to sabotage the cease-fire. The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service informed ARMENPRES that the enemy used Grad launchers, tanks, and artillery to shell Kornidzor in Gorisskiy Rayon between 0100-0300 on 1 September. Two shells exploded near Goris. Another shell was fired on the city.

The Azerbaijani brigands based in (Akhkend) and Kazanchi and (Krisatska) region opened fire today on (Chakaten), Geganush, and Akarak in Kapanskiy Rayon. There were no casualties in Goris or Kapan.

The enemy bases in Kedabekskiy Rayon shelled the border positions in Krasnoselskiy Rayon for five continuous hours today using tanks, artillery, and Grad launchers. Our fighters refrained from retaliating for a certain time and then were forced to return fire.

An Azerbaijani infantry unit from Nakhichevan territory invaded the area around Khachik in Yekhegnadzorskiy Rayon at 0800. It advanced 100 meters inside Armenia. Our border guards took immediate countermeasures and following the brief battle [words indistinct].

No serious incidents have been recorded in the other border regions as of 1700.

Azeris Begin 'Large-Scale' Military Actions

NC0109140992 Yerevan SNARK in English 1015 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, 1 September (SNARK)—Alexander Tatevosyan, the head of the department of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs [not further specified], has declared that today at 1 P.M. the Azerbaijani Army has begun large-scale military actions at the east borders of Armenia. The Azerbaijani formations, tanks and armoured machines entered the territory of Krasnosselskiy Rayon of Armenia. It clearly shows that the Azerbaijani side has violated the agreement on ceasing the fire. Tatevosyan has underlined that Armenia "will undertake all the attempts to continue the armistice".

Border Cease-Fire Reached With Nakhichevan

NC0209142692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Another meeting was held at one of Nakhichevan's border posts yesterday between representatives of the military departments and local officials of Araratskiy Rayon and Nakhichevan's border rayons.

The temporary cessation of hostilities, the restoration of rail traffic, the supply of power to Nakhichevan via Armenia, and other matters were discussed during the talks.

A verbal cease-fire agreement was reached in specific sectors of the border to allow farmers to carry out harvest work. In addition, the agreement will ensure the safe operation of the two vineyards located on the border.

So far the sides are adhering to the cease-fire agreement.

Official Links Armistice With Karabakh 'Crisis'

OW0109193992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Yerevan on Tuesday [1 September], the Armenian Presidential Press Secretary, Ruben Shugaryan, told IF [INTERFAX] that it would not be correct to disassociate the armistice incident with Azerbaijan with the Karabakh crisis since it was precisely Karabakh opposition which fuelled the conflict.

The press secretary said that a definite ceasefire was possible only if Azerbaijan made attempts to negotiate fairly with either the Nagorno-Karabakh leadership or the Karabakh Military Command since Azerbaijan was definitely being faced by military opposition under Stepanakert command.

Official Denies Existence of POW Camps

OW0109194192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources close to Ashot Manucharyan, presidential advisor for national security, have dismissed press allegations that prisoner of war camps exist on Armenian territory. Manucharyan's office has described these accusations as the latest attempt by the Azeri propaganda machine to discredit Armenia.

The newspaper "ARK" had broadcast the information about the POW camps. The newspaper is the organ of the Armenian Liberal Democratic Party and referred to Azeri sources, according to the Armenians.

Kazakh Envoy Delivers Message to Ter-Petrosyan

LD0109165292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan September 1 TASS—Asan Kazhokov, a personal envoy of the president of Kazakhstan and a departmental chief of the republic's Foreign Ministry, who arrived in Yerevan, on Monday [31 August] delivered a personal message from Nursultan Nazarbayev to President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia, the Armenian presidential press service announced, without specifying details of the meeting or the contents of the message.

The Kazakh diplomat arrived here in accordance with an arrangement made in Alma-Ata by the foreign ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan to monitor compliance with the terms of a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Karabakh Leader Arrives in Yerevan for Visit

NC0209141792 Yerevan SNARK in English 1201 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, September 2. (SNARK)—Georgiy Petrosyan, as the head of the Karabakh Supreme Soviet, has arrived in Yerevan. Geham Bagdasaryan, the press-secretary of the Karabakh Supreme Soviet, has informed today the SNARK report on the aim of the visit. He has said that the aim of the visit is to conduct political consultations with the Armenian Government, to make contacts with foreign embassies situated in Yerevan. Geham Bagdasarian has underlined, "we hope that such meetings will contribute to international recognition of the republic of Nagorno-Karabakh."

Minister: Internal Resources Used Inefficiently

OW0109162192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking about the economic situation in Armenia, Prime Minister Gagik Arutyunyan said during a press conference on Monday [31 August] that its deterioration is caused not only by Azerbaijan's permanent economic siege, but also by internal factors, above all by inefficient utilization of the internal resources, "however scanty".

Arutyunyan said that over the first half of the year the budget deficit has increased to about 700 million roubles. The volume of industrial production has gone down by 48 per cent and the volume of trade turnover—by 73 per cent against the same period of 1991. Most of the industrial enterprises have become insolvent. The salary fund still lacks 1 billion roubles. As a consequence, pensions and other compensatory payments are delayed. The additional cash emission amounted to about 3 billion roubles.

The prime minister believes that the current situation is also due to the lack of discipline and responsibility at all governmental levels. He said that the Cabinet of Ministers is being updated to get the governmental bodies adjusted to the current situation. An advocate of a radical approach to the selection of personnel, the prime minister said that "there are people who are competent enough to amend the situation. Only those who do not and cannot work will leave their offices," he added.

Touching upon defence issues, Arutyunyan said that the government has plans to form what he called logistics structures, without which no efficient warfare can be waged. He also said that unconventional measures will have to be taken in order to redistribute the available resources.

Arutyunyan noted that not everybody has become aware that Armenia has been dragged into a war fuelled by Azerbaijan. He also reaffirmed that Armenia was waging a purely defensive war.

At the moment, talks continue between Armenia and Russia on extending a technical credit estimated at about 5 billion roubles to Armenia, said the Armenian prime minister. This credit, he went on to say, will be used for buying electric energy in Turkey in exchange for Russian gas.

IF [INTERFAX] note: The Armenian delegation to the talks consists of Armenian State Minister Vigen Chitechayna and Chairman of the Board of the Republican Bank Isaak Isaikyan.

Arutyunyan told IF [INTERFAX] that the situation in Abkhazia complicates the resumption of railway communication between Georgia and Armenia. He said, however, that talks are held daily between President Ter-Petrosyan and Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze, and between Arutyunyan and his Georgian counterpart Sigua. However, instability in Georgia does not allow foreign ships, among them ships carrying loads for Armenia, to call at Georgian ports. The Armenian government has drafted a number of measures to deal with the situation, said Gagik Arutyunyan.

Vice President Rejects Confederation Idea

PM0209111792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Sep 92 p 1

[Armen Khanbabyan report under the rubric "Short and to the Point": "Armenia Rejects the Confederation Idea"]

[Text] "The proposal made by M. Gorbachev and N. Nazarbayev to create a new confederative state based on the CIS is very dangerous," Armenian Vice President G. Arutyunyan believes. "There is no doubt that the single economic area of the former USSR is an objective reality. Armenia has always advocated its strengthening and the creation of interstate mechanisms capable of preventing the further disintegration of economic ties. However, any talk of reviving a political union is absurd."

Ter-Petrosyan Sends Message To Arab League

LD0109201792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan September 1 TASS—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan on Monday [31 August] sent a message to the secretary-general of the League of Arab States, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the president's press-service informed ITAR-TASS.

Ter-Petrosyan assured the head of the League of Arab States that notwithstanding further escalation and intensification of armed actions, the Armenian leadership continues to adhere to its position of finding a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Any mediation effort by the league will receive Yerevan's full support, the president assured.

According to Ter-Petrosyan, there are "no historical or psychological barriers" along the path to establishing close political and economic ties between Armenia and the Arab states. On the contrary, the life and prosperity of the Armenian community in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and in a number of other Arab countries is a striking example of Armenian-Arab co-existence.

Diplomatic Agreement Signed With India

LD0109160792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—Armenia and India signed agreements in Moscow Monday [31 August] to create diplomatic and consular ties, the Armenian press service reported.

The documents were signed by India's Ambassador to Russia, Alfred Silvester Gonsalves, and Armenia's permanent representative to Russia, Feliks Mamikoyan.

"We are certain, that in all political areas our countries have common views, and that relations between us will develop successfully," Gonsalves said. India warmly welcomed Armenian independence, and sent an immediate proposal to create diplomatic relations, the ambassador added.

Azerbaijan

Presidential Press Statement on Cease-Fire

LD0109164692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1627 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku September 1 TASS—The Armenian side has grossly violated the Alma-Ata memorandum on cease fire and on the eve of September 1 put under large-scale shelling a number of Azeri border areas, says a statement of the Azeri president's press service circulated here today.

Either the Armenian side is using peace negotiations as a smoke screen for the continuation of combat operations, or the Armenian political leadership is not able to control its own armed forces, says the document.

"Azerbaijan intends to follow the path of peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict. However, the destructive stand of Armenia, which prevents the achievement of a compromise, dictates the need to use efficient sanctions of the United Nations and the CSCE as regards the aggressor," says the statement.

Kazakh Envoy Begins Work on Alma-Ata Accords

NC0109141492 Baku TURAN in English
1144 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 31 August (TURAN)—Personal representatives of the president of Kazakhstan have started their activities in Baku and Yerevan in accordance with the memorandum signed by the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Yerevan in Alma-Ata.

"Our task is to create such conditions to further peacemaking process that would ease accommodation of the sides, beginning from the simple matters to most difficult and complicated questions. We see it necessary that the process should be carried out within the bounds of CSCE, UN and Tehran peace talks, held in May of this year," said to the TURAN correspondent the personal representative of the Kazakhstan's president to Baku, head of the international department under the presidential board, and cabinet Minister Ganiy Kasimov. Kasimov thinks the sides have found the points of contact in Alma-Ata and now this process needs consolidation, that is, to lower the level of military confrontation and create ground for a summit of the three presidents.

Kazakhstan's diplomat did not rule out the possibility of breaking the Alma-Ata agreements. But still G. Kasimov said that he and his colleague to Yerevan Asan Kozhakov would consider their mission fulfilled if [they] manage to maintain a dialogue between Yerevan and Azerbaijan.

Airline Pilots To Be Trained in U.S.

NC2808154892 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English
1000 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 26 August (ASSA-IRADA)—Azeri pilots will go for a 5-month retraining in USA, ASSA-IRADA was told by General Director of State Concern 'Azerbaijan Hava Yollary' [Azerbaijani Airlines] Adalyat Aliyev. This agreement was reached with the American Aviation leasing group company. The pilots will fly back to Azerbaijan by two 'Boeing-727-200', which will be sold by this company to our republic on credit. The 'Boeings' will make international trips for hard currency.

Preparations Made for New Embassies

NC0209065392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Seven of the 120 countries that have recognized Azerbaijan's independence have opened embassies in Baku. They are the United States, Turkey, Russia, Iraq, Iran, France, and the PRC. The Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed an AZERINFORM correspondent that issues relating to opening the embassies of Germany, Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Britain soon are being considered. Leading officials of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs are taking measures to create the conditions the foreign missions will require to function.

Diplomatic Relations With Morocco Established

NC0209063992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] We have received a report from Rabat that Morocco and Azerbaijan have established diplomatic relations. The two countries plan to further enhance their friendly relations and cooperation.

Diplomatic Relations Established With UAE

NC0109122992 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English
0648 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 1 September (ASSA-IRADA)—Diplomatic relations between the Azerbaijan Republic and United Arab Emirates [UAE] have been established today September 1, ASSA-IRADA was told in the Foreign Ministry.

Energy Delegation Heads for Iran Conference

NC0109130292 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English
0648 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 1 September (ASSA-IRADA)—Official energy delegation of Azerbaijan leaves today for Tehran to participate in the energy conference sponsored by Iranian Government. The conference is to deal with electric energy and cooperation in the field of electric resources use in Caucasus and the whole region, ASSA-IRADA learned from the Foreign Ministry.

Turkmenistan Cuts Fuel Supplies Over Prices

NC3108163892 Baku TURAN in English
1240 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 29/08/92 (TURAN)—Turkmenistan has cut of gas supplies to Azerbaijan after the Azeri disagreement with a rise in gas prices. If formerly Turkmenistan's gas costed 870 rubles a hundred cubic metres, now its price increased to 3,500.

The Azeri Government faced a dilemma, either to quadruple gas prices, or subsidize a rise in prices through the state budget.

Tariyel Huseynov, general director of the 'Aztransgas' concern said to the TURAN correspondent the annual gas requirements of Azerbaijan accounts for 14 milliard cubic metres. The republic proceeds [as received] only 10 milliard cubic metres of gas, losing 3 milliards of this amount on proceeding. Azerbaijan could meet partially its gas requirements, if creates low waste technology.

But while the government hesitates, a number of the Azeri regions is facing irregularity in gas feeding.

Georgia

Reportage Highlights Developments in Abkhazia

Russian Troops Said Involved in Fighting

LD0109143292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1237 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Report by IPRINDA correspondent Zurab Dvali from Sukhumi]

[Text] The situation in Abkhazia remains extremely tense. Major combat operations are taking place in Eshera, on the outskirts of Sukhumi. Fierce fighting in this region has continued since yesterday. According to the headquarterss of the government armed forces, the Abkhazian side was the first to open fire, shelling the positions of the Georgian Guard. At 1500 today, armed clashes in the Eshera area were still continuing. Georgia is concentrating its troops and armored equipment in the region of the big Gumista Bridge, where the Abkhazian armed formations have stepped up their pressure and attempted an offensive. IPRINDA reports from the area on the latest combat operations say that as of 31 August, subunits of the Russian troops stationed in Eshera also are taking part in combat operations. In particular, according to available information, they put out of action two tanks belonging to the Georgian Guard.

In connection with this we contacted General Sufyan Beppayev, deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, who clearly stated that he has no information about these tanks being put out of action by Russian servicemen. Nevertheless, he stated that a competent commission has been set up that includes representatives of the Headquarters of the Transcaucasus Military District and of the Georgian side. They are to investigate these incidents.

It has become known from the same sources in Sukhumi that as of today three modern multiple-purpose SU-27 military aircraft constantly (?fly) over the Georgian National Guard positions in Eshera. Incidentally, deputy commander General Beppayev replied to this question by saying that he has no information about this. To all appearances, having found themselves between two fires, the Russian Army servicemen in Eshera have decided to take active steps to ensure their own safety. The main thing, however, is that they are not dragged into the conflict, which may aggravate the situation in Abkhazia even further.

According to the headquarters of the government troops, a large number of volunteers from North Caucasus are taking part in the battle for Eshera on the side of the Abkhazian armed formation. The Adygey people form the overwhelming majority of the prisoners-of-war taken by the Georgian side. To all appearance, the Confederation of the Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus sends not only fighting men to Abkhazia. A surface-to-surface type missile was found today in a kindergarten store room in the center of Tbilisi. It is difficult to say right now who planned to carry out a terrorist act.

Shevardnadze: No Talks if Russia Fighting

OW0109170192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze announced that if the alleged firing Tuesday [1 September] night by Russian troops at Georgians stationed near Sukhumi in Abkhazia is confirmed as a fact, then the Russian-Georgian-Abkhazian high level negotiations planned for September 3 in Moscow will not take place.

Appearing at a session of the Georgian State Council Tuesday, Shevardnadze stated that Commander of State Council troops in Abkhazia Giya Karkarashvili reported that a group of Georgian Guards who had been forced to make a crossing of the Gumista River near Sukhumi had been fired upon. The shots originated from a Russian Internal Affairs laboratory building which soldiers are guarding. The Georgian troops suffered casualties.

Shevardnadze reported that a commission of Georgian and Russian soldiers was formed Tuesday and has already been sent to Sukhumi to investigate the circumstances of the incident near the Gumista River.

Justice Ministry Condemns Actions

LD0209054992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0523 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 2 TASS—The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Georgia has adopted a document making a politico-legal evaluation of acts undertaken by the supreme state power and administration bodies of Abkhazia.

The ministry regards a number of actions of the Abkhazian Government, such as, in particular, the establishment of its own Armed Forces and the restoration of the 1925 Constitution of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic as exceeding its powers.

The leadership of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, points out the Georgian ministry's document, "has usurped power and established a mono-ethnic dictatorship which—in disregard of the will of nationalities who live in Abkhazia and of the entire people and with the aid of external forces that are hostile to Georgia—carries out legislative and organisational activities with a view to breaking the territorial integrity of Georgia and separating Abkhazia from Georgia."

The Georgian Ministry of Justice suggests that the following measures be taken immediately: To dissolve the Abkhazian parliament which was formed on the basis of

a discriminatory electoral law, to declare as null and void the legal acts adopted by the Abkhazian Government, to hold new elections to the supreme power bodies of the autonomous republic as soon as possible, to disband mono-ethnic interior-ministry troops of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic and immediately cease combat operations.

The Georgian Ministry of Justice suggests setting up a commission with the participation of representatives of the two sides to work out matters aimed at differentiating the spheres of competence between the Republic of Georgia and the autonomous republic.

Abkhaz Party Appeals to Yeltsin

LD0109181992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] The Abkhaz People's Party has made an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin in connection with the meeting on the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict which is to take place in Moscow on 3 September. The document calls on the meeting to put a halt to the bloodshed and establish peace on Abkhaz soil. The efforts by the Russian Government and President Yeltsin for a peaceful settlement of the crisis are evaluated in the document. The Abkhaz People's Party also demanded an invitation to the forthcoming meeting in Moscow for the leaders of the International Cherkess Association and the parliament of the Confederation of the Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus who, the authors of the appeal maintain, have the most influence over the populations of Abkhazia and the Northern Caucasus.

Ardzinba Ready for 'Civilized Relations'

OW0109193592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Abkhazia's parliamentary speaker, Vladislav Ardzinba, hopes that the meeting in Moscow scheduled for September 3 will put an end to bloodshed and solve the existing problems by negotiation, however difficult this may be. In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, Vladislav Ardzinba said that he was ready for "civilized relations with Georgia", but demanded that all Georgian armed units be withdrawn from the Abkhazian territory.

Commenting on the reasons of the conflict, the Abkhazian leader pointed out that this was a problem of political relations between Georgia and Abkhazia which was being solved by force. Vladislav Ardzinba said that the Georgian State Council, which is not a legitimate body, had repeatedly used force in solving political matters, particularly in relation with western Georgia, South Ossetia and its political opponents.

Vladislav Ardzinba pointed out that the conflict in Abkhazia has gained international status. "It involves peoples from the North Caucasus and volunteers from Russia", according to Vladislav Ardzinba.

In relation to Russia's role in the resolution of the conflict, Ardzinba said that Abkhazia is proceeding from its status as a "great state and permanent member of the UN Security Council and from the fact that the conflict is taking place on her borders and concerns her interests". Russia, in Ardzinba's opinion, "must herself guarantee the strict fulfillment of any agreements which will be reached and guarantee human rights".

In answer to the question of the stationing of CIS peace keeping forces in Abkhazia (following the example set in South Ossetia), Ardzinba spoke in favour "for" and considers this a possibility.

In his opinion, trilateral Abkhazian/Georgian/Russian peace keeping units could be introduced in some regions of Abkhazia, but in others a purely third party force with no involvement in the conflict must be introduced. He did not exclude the possibility that these forces might be supplied by the UN or the CSCE.

The head of the autonomous republic's parliament sees Abkhazia's future status as that of a sovereign republic with equal negotiating rights with Georgia as, he said, was the case in the 1920's. Ardzinba does not consider it possible under present circumstances to hold parliamentary elections in the republic because they would virtually mean that military activity in the republic had achieved one of its aims—the liquidation of a parliament and existing order unfavourable to one party or another.

Shevardnadze To Bring Peace Plan To Moscow

OW0109193092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian State Council, Eduard Shevardnadze, says he is leaving for Moscow to meet with President Boris Yeltsin and chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba, and propose a tangible plan of peace settlement in Abkhazia. In an interview for the Russian daily paper IZVESTIYA on Tuesday [1 September] Mr. Shevardnadze, however, abstained from revealing his plan. "We want to put an end to this warfare, and we know what needs to be done to achieve this", he stressed. Everything will depend on the degree of preparedness of the parties to meet each other halfway, the Georgian leader said in anticipation of the meeting scheduled for September 3.

In answering the questions of the IZVESTIYA correspondent, Mr. Shevardnadze renounces the suggestion to exclude Abkhazia from Georgia. Such a development, in his words, would lead to a situation when "our common tree will fall, entrapping all of us." As regards a possibility for establishing federal relations, Mr. Shevardnadze said that people should determine the state system in Georgia and Abkhazia through a popular referendum. At the same time, Mr. Shevardnadze noted that he has many reservations about the introduction of a "federal system in Georgia", averring that the problems insuring

the conformable rights and status of the Abkhazian population could be resolved by other means.

Mr. Shevardnadze also expressed an opinion, that it would be in the interests of Russia to have to do with Georgia as an integral and unified state, since should it only become disintegrated, it would no longer be stable and it would be unable to secure peace in this region which is vitally needed for Russia.

Eduard Shevardnadze characterized the activities of the Confederation of the Caucasian people as nothing other than international terrorism "smacking of fascism". In his words, it is committing an aggression against Georgia, by directing there its fighting men.

Mr. Shevardnadze emphasized that the stay of Georgian troops in Abkhazia is a temporary measure, and Georgia was forced to resort to it in order to secure normal supplies of cargoes along the automobile and railroads passing through Abkhazia. He also pointed out that these measures were coordinated with the Abkhazian government.

Ardzinba Denies Rule With Gamsakhurdia

LD0209002292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2252 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 2 September (ITAR-TASS)—Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba has denied a report that came from Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, on Monday [31 August] to the effect that he made a televised statement about "the formation of an Abkhazo-Mingrelian state that he and Gamsakhurdia are to rule." The Abkhazian leader did this in an exclusive interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, published today.

Ardzinba said that he had not maintained, and did not maintain, any connection with the ex-president of Georgia.

"We are now fighting not against the Georgian people, but against the leadership, which is conducting a militarist policy and sends its armed formations here," Ardzinba stressed.

In reply to a question about what he expected from the meeting between the leaders of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia, and the North Caucasus autonomous entities, scheduled for 3 September, Vladislav Ardzinba said: "First of all, decisions to end the bloodshed."

State Council Troops Launch 'Mass Offensive'

LD0209100192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 2 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Georgian troops have conducted a mass offensive against the positions of the internationalist home guard detachments near Sukhumi. After three hours of shelling with all kinds of weapons, the State Council troops broke through the home guard's defense. Georgian armored vehicles, which were bringing up the rear, fired on residential areas in the village of Nizhnaya Eshera. After harsh fighting, the Abkhaz home guard succeeded in restoring the front line along the Gumista River. The Georgian side has lost eleven armored vehicles over the past 24 hours.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Unrest

PM0209092592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian State Council chairman, by correspondent Besik Urigashvili; place and date not given: "Eduard Shevardnadze: In Such Wars There Can Be No Victories, Only Defeats"]

[Text] [Urigashvili] A week before the start of the armed conflict in Abkhazia you said that if anyone wants to tackle the problems facing Georgia by force, you are not the man for the job. What then changed?

[Shevardnadze] Nothing. I remain committed to that principle. In the late seventies, when mass unrest occurred in Abkhazia, some of the then leaders in Moscow and Tbilisi persistently demanded the use of force. I held out against this in the face of very strong pressure.

For me, the political settlement of any internal conflict such as, say, the Georgian-Ossetian one, is a crucial precondition for stabilization and the building of a democratic Georgia. Some of my compatriots reproach me for having introduced into that territory the Russian and North-Ossetian subunits which, together with the Georgian battalion, have ensured the cease-fire. But I have said that I assume complete personal responsibility, for the main thing now is to stop the bloodshed.

Life is so difficult for us that it is sheer folly to create any new complications. And we did not create this confrontation in Abkhazia—we were dragged into it.

The redeployment of troops within our own territory—incidentally, I categorically refuse to accept the term "introduction of troops," as if we had invaded a foreign state—was a forced measure. We actually had no alternative.

The railroad running across the territory of Abkhazia and western Georgia is the main artery supplying the republic with all its needs. For us, as, incidentally, for neighboring Armenia, it is truly a lifeline. But since February this artery has begun to contract catastrophically: bridges, railroad tracks, and overhead contact line pylons have been blown up, trains attacked, robberies committed... This has brought the population of major cities and whole regions to the verge of starvation. Denied its already meager supplies, the economy came to a halt.

We were living with a noose around our neck, and it was growing tighter and tighter. With an annual republic budget of 25 billion rubles [R], our losses from sabotage came to R12 billion.

The second reason was terrorism. The main boltholes and bases for the armed gangs are located on the territory of Abkhazia and the neighboring rayons of western Georgia. The sabotage raids and attacks on National Guard subunits have been carried out from there. The plan was clear—to create a situation producing the maximum number of civilian casualties, to create a supercharged atmosphere, and to wreck the process of stabilization and, thereby, the future elections.

We did not wish to involve the army in carrying out police functions. We issued instructions to the police, but little came of it. We asked the leaders of Abkhazia to protect trains and railroad facilities. They managed to protect some trains through their own devices, but there came a point where they no longer sufficed.

We were forced to introduce a state of emergency on the main lines. We drew up a special plan in which the basic task of protecting them was vested in army subunits. Our actions were coordinated with the Abkhaz leadership.

[Urigashvili] Ardzinba was kept informed?

[Shevardnadze] I personally spoke with him by telephone. Agreement in principle was obtained. The only thing we did not manage to brief him on was the plan of action. We were overtaken by events—the railroad bridge over the Inguri River, connecting Zugdidovskiy Rayon with Galskiy Rayon, was blown up. There was a real threat that the road bridge would also be destroyed, and that would have meant utter disaster.

A 200-strong forward detachment crossed Galskiy Rayon unhindered, but at the Ochamchirskiy Rayon boundary it was fired upon by Abkhaz guardsmen. There were fatalities. That is where it all started.

I repeat: We had no option. Nor do we today: Protecting the mainlines, ensuring that transport runs normally, and eliminating the centers of sabotage and terror means saving the country and the people from destruction.

I have proposed and continue to propose to the Abkhaz leadership that we do this together. It is difficult to talk of peace without first eliminating the source of the misfortunes that threaten us both equally.

[Urigashvili] Is a military victory possible in such an action?

[Shevardnadze] Not a single internal conflict has yet been resolved by force. Whatever terms—"aggression" or "invasion"—may be put into circulation, we are not fighting our own people. Abkhazia is part of Georgia, and the Abkhazians, like the Georgians, are its indigenous population. In such "wars" there can be no victories, only defeats.

[Urigashvili] A meeting on the peaceful settlement of this conflict will be held in Moscow on 3 September. Do you yourself believe such a settlement is possible?

[Shevardnadze] I do, as I have always done. Something has always been achieved. As it was in Abkhazia itself in the seventies. There has to be a cease-fire and a stop to the bloodshed.

[Urigashvili] How, then, do you regard the statement by Colonel Gii Karkarashvili, commander of the Georgian troops in Abkhazia, that he is ready to lay down the lives of 100,000 Georgians to destroy the 97,000 Abkhazians?

[Shevardnadze] Few people are aware of what preceded this. Karkarashvili, escorted by three comrades-in-arms who were friends, had set off for talks on the exchange of POW's and hostages. He had arranged this beforehand with the Abkhazians, many of whom respect him as a brave and honest man. And then, all of a sudden, there were shots, and two of his friends died in front of his eyes. Unfortunately, when blood is shed people do not choose their words with care, and this "war of words" provokes new bloodshed.

[Urigashvili] You issued a National Reconciliation Manifesto. It has not produced tangible results. It is said to have been a miscalculation. And some observers are already claiming that Shevardnadze needed the Abkhaz action to consolidate his own position and win over the Zviadists [supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia].

[Shevardnadze] I refuse to answer such "accusations" and speculation—they are so absurd. And as far as the Manifesto is concerned, you are mistaken... It has worked, and has done so precisely among the people you call Zviadists. Many of them have seen for themselves that we are not looking for enemies in our own country, and they have believed us.

[Urigashvili] The outburst of hatred and intolerance which led to bloodshed in the wake of the redeployment of troops is incomprehensible and inexplicable to many people from the outside.

[Shevardnadze] There are many reasons for this, and if they are not explained, it will be difficult to understand why the outburst occurred. It is absurd when everything is presented as if the Georgians went off their heads and indulged in self-destruction.

The Abkhazians are a people belonging to our state. Yes, their rights were seriously infringed in the past—and I have always openly stated that. This happened both under Stalin and later. I have sought to rectify this a little insofar as my powers and the present-day realities allow. Something has been achieved. And whatever might be said about my constant concessions, I did and do consider that I acted correctly.

But then another wave arose—that of separatism. This is a dreadful phenomenon. It recognizes no bounds or borders. Separatism is the force of inertia of a permanent fragmentation creating new conflicts.

It is the separatist-minded section of Abkhazian politicians which has exploited the political shortsightedness of the previous regime and managed to "push through" an electoral law which can only be described as discriminatory. It was that law which planted the bomb which has exploded today.

I appreciate that a minority must be guaranteed its rights. But not in such a way as to guarantee it a majority in parliament and the opportunity to pass laws which ignore the rights and interests of the other section of the population, which, moreover, constitutes the majority. That is a direct line to ethnic-based dictatorship.

The last seven months have seen a constant show of strength and demonstration of ethnic superiority in that parliament and the adoption of laws which ignore the rights of the majority and basic commonsense. The operation of the constitution adopted during the time of the now nonexistent Transcaucasian Federation has been restored. And even then farsighted Abkhazians predicted that it would split little Abkhazia into parts and be its downfall.

References to the fact that the 1921 Constitution, in which Abkazia is not mentioned at all, has been restored in Georgia are invalid. When enacting it the drafters of the decision also named the Abkhazian autonomous formation in the preamble, stipulating that this question would be resolved after the election of parliament.

The constitutional crisis was planned in advance, and it is difficult to believe that its inciters did not know what they were doing.

[Urigashvili] And yet can you entertain the idea of Abkhazia seceding from Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] I cannot. Because drawing and quartering a country like Georgia would drain the life blood of the peoples, generations, and families, the present and the past. We have lived together on this land, have put down roots together, intertwined our roots, destinies, habits, traditions, names, and songs. Is this root system now to be severed? If so, our common tree will collapse and crush us all beneath it.

I know many Abkhazians who think the same way. And I do not know a single Georgian who could accept the idea of separation. While even one of us is alive, such an idea is out of the question.

[Urigasvili] But are federal relations possible in such a case?

[Shevardnadze] I cannot, I am not entitled to anticipate events. This is a matter for the future parliament. The form of state system for Georgia and Abkhazia is to be determined by the people through a referendum. But, to be honest, I do not have very much faith in a federal system in Georgia. It is foolish to blindly copy Russia, a huge country with different specific features and a different history and traditions. Questions connected with guaranteeing the relevant rights and the status of Abkahzia can be resolved without Georgia having a federal system. Everything can be resolved within the framework of a unified state.

[Urigashvili] Incidentally, about Russia; don't you think that its present position was caused by similar problems in its own autonomous formations?

[Shevardnadze] I consider that Russia is guided by the generally accepted international norms proclaimed by the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe. The democratic leadership of Russia cannot approach the problem of the inviolability of borders and the integrity of territory any other way. And moreover, I consider that it is in Russia's interests to deal with a unified, integrated, and stable Georgia. A fragmented Georgia will never be stable. And nor will there ever be peace and calm in this region of vital importance to Russia.

[Urigashvili] How do you regard the role of the Confederation of Highland Peoples of the Caucasus in this conflict?

[Shevardnadze] On its merits. The actions of its leadership can only be described as international terrorism reeking of fascism.

The Confederation is carrying out aggression and is interfering in our internal affairs from the territory of those republics. Radio transmitters coordinating combat operations in Abkhazia are operating over there. It is from there that gunmen come to murder our citizens and orders are issued to sow terror in our capital. And all Georgians who are citizens of those republics have been declared hostages.

It is not superfluous to consider why tiny Abkhazia has been transformed into a such a crucible seething with a critical mass of the rankest reaction. You there have the patronage of not unknown groupings from the former Union parliament, Zhirinovskiy with his own party, and the "Confederation," which is seeking to intimidate Russia with the threat of a breakaway by certain republics and the specter of a second Caucasian war, plus our own home-grown insurgents, who have suddenly become inflamed with love for a people whom they previously denied the right to exist.

What do they have in common? Nothing except intemperate, overweening extremism. But extremities converge.

[Urigashvili] Is the West's restrained response to the events in Abkhazia evidence of the stock of trust which you personally enjoy there or is it due to an appreciation of the fact that Georgia's hand has been forced?

[Shevardnadze] Perhaps it is to a certain extent a matter of trust; however that stock of trust has been granted not because Shevardnadze is here, but because Georgia has chosen the course of building a democratic state. There is also appreciation of the fact that amidst the highly complex process under way here we have confronted extraordinary problems, problems which no other state has yet experienced.

[Urigashvili] What, however, are you taking to Moscow? Do you have a specific peace settlement plan?

[Shevardnadze] I do. But forgive me if I do not reveal it yet. We want to stop this war and we know how to do it. However, our wishes alone are not enough. Everything depends on the degree of readiness on all sides to meet one another half-way.

Theft, Drinking 'Rampant' in Ossetian Forces

OW2908142792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1207 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF [INTERFAX] learned from the headquarters of the United Command of the South Ossetia Peace Forces September 6 is the deadline of the contracts that were signed with the servicemen. The headquarters reports that in the Osset battalion 100 out of 500 expressed willingness to extend the contract, and there is no information concerning the Georgian battalion.

In view of a number of problems, the Russian Federation government decided to replace the Russian air assault unit with motorized infantry troops during September. Colonel-General Gennadiy Filatov arrived in Tskhinvali the other day who will replace Major-General Anatoliy Dronov as commander of the Russian forces.

According to the headquarters, ¼ of the peace-keeping force were discharged for violating the terms of the contract since after the peace-keeping force had been moved in. For example, 120 men were discharged in the 500-strong Osset battalion and more than 80 in the 230-strong Georgian one. Drinking, AWOLs [absent without leave], hooliganism and thefts of weapons are rampant. A 32-mm APC submachine gun and 7 assault rifles and 120,000 ammunition rounds were stolen in the Osset battalion. At least ten attempts to steal weapons were thwarted on the Osset and on the Georgian side. More and more Georgians are deserting.

It is unofficially reported that there is a brisk trade in weapons and military equipment: a 30-round assault rifle magazine goes for 1,000 rubles, a bulletproof vest for 2,000 rubles, a Kalashnikov assault rifle, 120,000 rubles.

The most difficult problem today in the peace-keeping process is to rebuild law-enforcement structures, says the headquarters. They have only 50 percent of the required staff and do not have enough weapons and vehicles.

Saturday Generals Gennadiy Filatov, Anatoliy Dronov and Panteleimon Georgadze left for Tbilisi Saturday for consultations.

Estonia

Officials on Prospects for Early Troop Pullout

Foreign Minister Awaits Action

LD3108213292 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1600 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski by Krister Larsson on 31 August; place not given; from "The Echo" program]

[Text] The Baltic governments are still taking a wait and see attitude toward reports that came out of Moscow earlier today that Russia is prepared to withdraw all its troops from the Baltic states as early as next year. Moscow had previously discussed 1994 as the earliest date. This is what Estonia's Swedish-speaking Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski told "The Echo" program a short while ago:

[Begin recording] [Manitski] Every signal in that direction that they are taking specific steps to withdraw their troops. Each step in time in the right direction is, of course, something that we welcome, but there is usually a certain distance between word and specific deed, and it remains to be seen. We cannot trust anything else until there is a signed timetable and international supervision; that is precisely what the Helsinki document requires. It states clearly that action must be swift, good order must be maintained, and withdrawal must be total. I want to stress that there is no room for any basic agreements or any so-called strategic installations. On that the three Baltic states are in complete agreement.

[Larsson] Nothing should remain of any former Soviet armed forces, now the Russian Armed Forces, in the Baltic states?

[Manitski] No. There is no reason for any of the Soviet armed forces to remain in the Baltic states, any more than anywhere else in Europe.

[Larsson] It sounds as though you had heard similar reports in the past about Russian withdrawals but that you are still doubtful about today's reports.

[Manitski] Withdrawal is always under way, but what is of interest is not when the first 10,000, 15,000, or 20,000 will actually depart but when the last 3,000 or 5,000 finally leave. [end recording]

Deputy Shows 'Restrained Optimism'

OW0109172892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1637 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's position on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Baltic States is becoming more acceptable for Estonia, according to Estonian Deputy Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste.

Commenting at BALTFAX's request on unofficial information from the Russian Foreign Ministry about Russia's readiness to withdraw its troops from the Baltic States by 1993, Mr. Velliste said that he feels "restrained optimism" regarding the question and hopes the meeting planned for September 8 between Boris Yeltsin and Estonian Parliament Head Vytautas Landsbergis "will become an indicator of the seriousness of the Russian government's intentions".

Mr. Velliste said that Estonia demands the withdrawal of the greater part of the troops by the end of this year. As a compromise, he said, certain units could be pulled out in 1993.

So far about 60% of the former Soviet troops once stationed in Estonia have been withdrawn. According to experts, from 12-13 thousand Russian servicemen remain in the republic.

Questions regarding the troop pull-out from Estonia wil be discussed at the next round of Russian-Estonian negotiations, which will take place September 9-10 in Moscow.

Latvia

Officials Deem 1993 Troop Withdrawal Acceptable

OW0109172392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1636 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian officials view as "acceptable" the proposed withdrawal of the Russian troops from the Baltic region in 1993. In commenting, on the BALTFAX request, on the "unofficial" information provided by a high-standing Russian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] official who averred that Russia is prepared to complete the withdrawal of its troops from the Baltic states in 1993, Latvian parliamentarians and government officials note positive changes in Russia's stance, as regards its relations with the Baltic republics, which transpired recently.

The chairman of the Latvian parliamentary commission for international affairs, Indulis Berzins, reminded the BALTFAX correspondent that at the talks with Russia, the Latvian delegation has always been concurred with the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the republic by the fall of 1993. Now, should Russia officially confirm its preparedness to pull out its troops from the republic in 1993, it will be meeting halfway the Latvian proposals, he said.

In the opinion of Mr Berzins, there are no technical or social obstacles impeding the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the territory of the Baltic republic in 1993, and all the problems encumbering the implementation of this decision are mainly of a political nature.

An employee of the political department of the Latvian MFA, Aivars Vovers, remarked that the Latvian diplomats who are maintaining close contact with their Russian counterparts have noticed a softening of the Russian position in this regard. In particular, he noted, the Russian side no longer regards as imperative for the troops withdrawal the provisions proposed by Russia at meeting of the Russian and Baltic foreign ministers in Moscow on August 6. But the Russian side indicates that it has envisaged a number of issues "to be addressed in the course of our future discussions".

In the meantime, the head of the Latvian government delegations at the talks with Russia, Janis Dinevics, has pointed to the unofficial nature of the Russian statements, and expressed a reservation that they wouldn't turn up in the future.

In an interview to the BALTFAX correspondent, Mr Dinevics expressed a conjecture that these terms of withdrawal of the Russian troops could only apply to Lithuania where the strength of the Russian troops is smaller than in Latvia. He also pointed out that the situation in Lithuania is much more intricate, considering that most of the citizens in the republic voted for the unconditional withdrawal of the Russian troops already in 1992. Most of the Latvian politicians argue, Mr Dinevics said, that the referendum results are likely to "tie the hands" of the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis.

Government Pays Off Outstanding Debt to Farmers

LD0109212892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] The Latvian Government has paid off in full all its debts to farmers for milk, meat products, and grain. This was announced at a news conference today by Deputy Agriculture Minister Uldis Benikis. Benikis said the accounting crisis in agriculture was overcome only by the government's use of extreme measures, borrowing $12 million from various state enterprises and converting it to Latvian rubles.

Government Announces Rise in Minimum Wage 1 Oct

LD0209090792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2000 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and representatives of the free trade unions of Latvia met today. The main topic on the agenda was the social protection of the population. As the chairman reported, the government intends to increase the minimum wage on 1 October. But a steep rise in prices is also expected in October. [passage omitted]

Lithuania

Delegation Commends 'Constructive' Troop Talks

OW0109172092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1638 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Our discussions in Moscow are very constructive. It seems, we had not observed such constructiveness on behalf of the Russian side until yesterday and today," Lithuania's charge d'affaires in Russia, Egidijus Bickauskas, admitted in his interview for the Lithuanian radio Tuesday. In the meantime, he said that very little progress was being made in the delegations' work on the agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the territory of Lithuania.

In the words of the Lithuanian diplomat, half of the delegations are working in the Lithuanian embassy in Moscow, while the other half work in the General Staff of the Russian Army. Mr Bickauskas expressed hope that the work of the delegations will be completed Tuesday night.

The Lithuanian officials, including the head of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, are still refraining from commenting on the unofficial statement that Russia proposes to shift the date of the final troops withdrawal from the territory of Lithuania to 1993.

Landsbergis Claims Russia Modifying Agreements

LD0109121192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Speaking on the national TV yesterday, Chairman of parliament Vytautas Landsbergis said the Russian side was making changes in the parts of the text already agreed upon and proposals unacceptable to Lithuania. These proposals twist the real legal state of Lithuania and are an attempt at making Lithuania take on certain commitments so that later the troop withdrawal might depend on those commitments. We can help Russia pull out its troops or build something, but namely help, said Mr. Landsbergis. He expressed a big wish that an agreement on the troop withdrawal would be signed on 8 September, the day when he was meeting with President Boris Yeltsin.

Minister on Army Plans; Premier on New Warship

LD2808194892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] About 20,000 people should serve in the Lithuanian Army, Lithuanian National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius stated in an interview with RESPUBLIKA. According to Butkevicius, the Lithuanian Army, including the mobilized reserve, should have 120,000 complete sets of armaments. Butkevicius declined to say how many weapons have been purchased so far by the Ministry of National Defense, but he stressed that the present number

is only the minimum necessary to guarantee the work of the national defense services.

Meanwhile, commenting to LIETUVOS RYTAS on the general problems of the national defense system, Butkevicius said that, as the elections to the Seimas approach, he has to resist pressure from various political groups. According to him, these groups would like to use the defense system and the conntry's voluntary protection service as an instrument of political struggle. He described resistance to such pressure as his main task. Apart from that, Butkevicius confirmed his intention to participate in the coming elections to the Seimas.

Meanwhile, Lithuanian Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala has commented on recent reports that Lithuania intends to purchase a warship from Russia. He noted that the absence of a proper coastal defense system costs Lithuania more tham the intended expenditure on the purchase of such a ship from Russia. At the same time, the prime minister stressed that it is false economy to allocate only small sums of money to arming the police or to the wages of customs officials because, he said, criminals feel secure knowing that the police are not armed and smugglers know that a customs official can be bribed for $10 or $20.

Reduction in Natural Gas Supply Cuts Production

OW0209120492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1040 GMT 2 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's 55% reduction of its natural gas supplies to Lithuania from August 29 has caused a serious fall in production at many enterprises. Power stations are now making use of the residual oil stored up for the winter.

Experts believe that, if Lithuania buys gas at world prices, some of its enterprises may have to be stopped altogether.

Government Changes Price Fixing Rules

OW3008143492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1416 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's government has liberalized the prices of champagne, brandy and other wines produced locally. Until recently the prices of these commodities were subject to government regulation, but they fluctuated in different localities, depending on price increments fixed by the local trade authorities.

In the same resolution dated August 25 the Lithuanian government cancelled the order under which the costs of processing fixed by the ministry of economics were added to the prices of meat and milk products. From now on the producers, when fixing the prices of meat and milk products, sugar, fish and shell fish sold in the domestic market, will have to use ratios no higher than 15%. Retail prices will be fixed by the shops, but the trade increment for food products must not exceed the maximal amount (20% in big cities and 25% in towns and administrative centers).

Northwest Forces Officers To Discuss Withdrawal

OW0109195792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1638 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday, a group of senior officers from the headquarters of the North-Western Group of Forces [N-WGF], headed by the CINC [Commander in Chief] N-WGF, Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, has left Riga, the site of the headquarters, heading for Lithuania in order to "coordinate a series of issues" with the command of the Russian troops stationed there, a spokesman for the N-WGF HQs informed BALTFAX correspondent.

In his words, the meeting will "probably focus on the issues of the troops withdrawal from the territory of the republic". He also noted that he has no knowledge as regards any changes in the terms of troops withdrawal, and should any such changes be actuated, the N-WGF will be advised of them following the signing of the conformable agreement on the government level.

In the Northern military community area in Vilnius, the BALTFAX correspondent obtained a confirmation regarding the arrival there of the group of the N-WGF senior officers. A spokesman for the military community, however, refused to comment on the purpose of their arrival.

The press service of the Lithuanian Home Guard Ministry reported that it was not notified about the N-WGF officers' visit.